

MILITARY

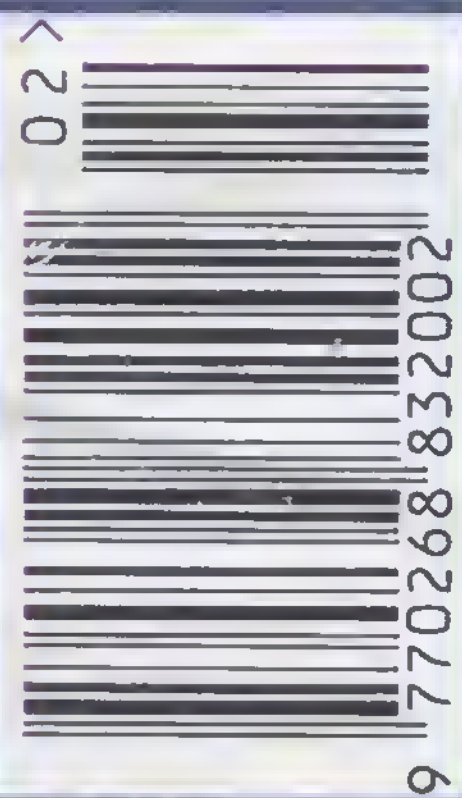
ILLUSTRATED

PAST & PRESENT

No.69

FEBRUARY 1994

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE YEOMANRY — BRITISH ARMOUR IN NORMANDY, 1944

FRENCH 3RD CUIRASSIERS, 1806-15

**BRITISH OFFICERS' UNIFORMS
IN THE NAPOLEONIC PERIOD**

THE KNINJAS OF KRAJINA

POLISH WINGED HUSSAR

**FROM TITO'S YUGOSLAVIA
TO THE PRESENT STRUGGLE**

RUFUS LATHROP BAKER, USA

Rufus Lathrop Baker

United States Army

See article on page 36

Second Lieutenant
1813



Lieutenant Colonel
1854



MILITARY ILLUSTRATED

□ PAST & PRESENT □

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Our front cover illustration by Peter Sarson shows the Sherman Firefly which destroyed three Tigers, including Michael Wittmann's, at St Aignan in August 1944. See page 12.

With effect from the April 1994 issue of *Military Illustrated*, Tim Newark will be taking over as Editor. He is the author of ten books on military history, including the best-selling *The Barbarians and Celtic Warriors*. He is also co-founder and deputy director of Peter Newark's Military Pictures, one of the largest collections of military photographs and images in private hands.

All contributors are reminded that they should submit material to 43 Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY. Tim Newark can be contacted either at that address, tel 071 404 0304 or 071 359 3831.

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CRIMEWATCH

Lothian and Borders Police, Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh EH4 1RB, report the theft between 23:30 and 23:57 on Monday, 18 October 1993, of four items of antique silver Balkan weaponry. They were stolen from Kimmerghame House, Duns, Berwick.

Although no photos are available, the items are described as follows, and we would like to ask dealers and collectors to keep their eyes open for them — or perhaps some reader already remembers seeing them on sale?

First is a pair of 18-inch Balkan flintlock pistols, all engraved silver apart from the upper parts of the barrels, with slightly curved butts with elongated bulbous pommels. They are valued at £3,000. Second is a 10-inch antique silver dagger of Balkan origin with straight channelled doubled-edged blade and engraved silver handle and sheath. A small green gem stone is set in the handle head. Value £900. Finally, an 19-inch mace with polished dark wood handle banded with silver, and with a round gilded metal mace end with metal ridges. Value £1,100.

If any reader has any knowledge of these items, please contact PC 3045-G Gordon Jones on 0361 82222.

BATTLEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGY

This is the name of a new organisation specialising in the recovery and identification of items from European battlefields of the two World Wars, which they then offer for sale. Being

EDITOR'S NOTES

found *in situ*, all items are guaranteed genuine and sold with a certificate of authenticity. The finds are cleaned but otherwise not renovated apart from the treatment of iron and steel relics with phosphoric acid to prevent further decay. The organisation always works with local authorities and landowners and only removes items which its members feel will not deprive a neighbourhood of its history. An attractive brochure is available on request from: Battlefield Archaeology, PO Box 421 Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 0QJ.

HOLT'S TOURS

Holt's Battlefield Tours Ltd now have their 1994 brochure available. It offers 65 tours worldwide, including some brand new ones — for example, Crete and the Minoans, the French Foreign Legion, the Cape Colony and the Welsh castles of Edward I. Inevitably, there are several 50th Anniversary tours to Monte Cassino, Normandy, Amhem and the Ardennes throughout the year.

For a copy of the brochure, write to Holt's Battlefield Tours Ltd, Golden Key Building, 15 Market Street, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9DA or telephone 0304 612248.

ALDERSHOT SHOW

The Aldershot Branch of the BMSS is holding its annual 'Military in Miniature' show in the Princes Hall on 26 February. The show will include a wide range of displays and

competitions as well as trade stands. For further information, contact Gordon Frater, 50 New Odham Road, Alton, Hants GU34 1QG.

CRIMEAN WAR

The Crimean War Research Society exists to encourage research into every facet of the Crimean War and has a worldwide membership. The society researches uniforms, medals, orders of battle and personal accounts, and some members also wargame. The society also has a number of special publications and information sheets and publishes an illustrated journal, *The War Correspondent*.

Current subscription is £8 (UK), \$18 (USA) or £12 elsewhere overseas. Cheques should be made payable to The Crimean War Research Society and sent to the Secretary, David Cliff, 4 Castle Estate, Ripponden, Sowerby Bridge, W. Yorks HX6 4JY.

ISLAMIC RE-ENACTMENT

'Due to various antique incursions, a select formation of horse — Islamic Guard — shall be raised from Muslims and all imaginably period peoples, multi-ethnic, sympathetic to the cause, willing to ride for Al-Andalus. Applicants, on trial basis, will be expected to conform to a high standard of appearance, personal commitment and mounted drill, with a view to public re-enactments.

Apply in the first instance to Mr Kemp (Al-Anfi), PO Box 690, London SW4 8HW. Please enclose an SAE.'

KENT FAIR

Although it is short notice, we hope readers in the south-east will be able to visit the first North Kent Military Collectors' Fair which takes place on Sunday, 13 February, at the Inn on the Lake at Shorne, Gravesend, Kent. All manner of militaria will be on sale and there will be a special Zulu War exhibit. Admission is only 50p and there is ample parking space.

RADIO COMPETITION

The winners of the five sets of BBC World Service audio cassettes 'From Hoplite to Harrier' are: Gordon Riserow of Norwich, R.A. Hyne of Baldock, Sydney Stirling of Aberdeen, William Phillips of Fareham and P. Harris of Nottingham. Congratulations — you should have received your tapes by the time you read this.

The answers were as follows. The term 'hoplite' derives from 'hoplon', the name of the shield. An 'apostle' was a shaped wooden container for one musket charge; there were normally twelve suspended from a bandolier, hence the name. The BAe Harrier is the only aircraft able to 'yiff' (vectoring in forward flight).

Many thanks to Jonathan Marcus and his team for an excellent series of programmes and to the BBC World Service for donating the prizes.

MILITARY BORDER TERRITORY

ALTHOUGH I HAVE consistently maintained that the present Yugoslav crisis has most of its roots in the Austrian Military Frontier, the nationalist nonsense in 'The Croatian Warrior' MI No 65 does no service to those farmer-soldiers or modern Croatia. The trouble with ardent nationalism is that it is blind to the actions of others and its alleged oppressors, while seeking to demonstrate a singular national spirit.

There is first an attempt to justify Croatian control of all the territory as 'historic Croatia'. Above all, this ignores the Balkan story of constant involuntary mass migration. In fact, the area was in two parts, divided along the eastern edge of V, X and XI Regiments: the west was 'rump Croatia', the east was Civil and Grenz Slavonia. The latter was almost all Serb, its population having been pushed north by the Turks, in the same way as the Croats had been pushed out of their historic heartland in western Bosnia.

Civil Slavonia came under the administration of the Ban of Croatia in 1741 as compensation for the failure to recover the old Croat lands and was never legally part of the Kingdom of Croatia. Civil Slavonia sent its representatives to the Hungarian Diet, where they joined other Serbs from

southern Hungary. Peterwardein and the civil area around it is now part of Serbia. The Lika Regiment was also almost all Serb, closely connected to the Serbs around Knin in Dalmatia (now the heart of the 'Republic of Krajina').

Then we have the 'oppressed Croats': as almost free peasant soldiers, the Grenzers had no wish to be serfs under the control of the Croat noble assembly (Sabor), who just wanted more peasant labour. Yes, it was a bone of contention with the Croat nobles, but widespread migration was into the Grenz, not out of it! The whole area was under military control around 1700, but the part not required was quickly returned to civilian control (not the other way round). Prior to that the Turks ran the place!

The Frontier system was established at that point, as it lies on wide rivers and difficult, mainly mountainous terrain, where large cities and therefore better economic conditions would be difficult to sustain. Soldier-peasants on a frontier is a concept dating back to the Romans, where the people lived naturally in small self-contained settlements.

Bad research and a failure to understand Imperial government

makes for more nonsense. Each District contained Regiments as the administrative division — the tactical unit was the battalion. Part of the Regimental staff handled the civil administration of all the peoples, 'Serb privileges', which were only equivalent to the set-up in Civilian and Grenz Croatia, were promised only if Serbia proper was reconquered, and thus were never implemented. A separate administration further in the east in the Banat lasted a year as a counterweight to Civil Croat demands for greater control of the Frontier. In truth, Serb officers could not rise above battalion command and there were systematic attempts to convert Serbs to Catholicism and suppress Serb nationalism.

A quick glance at the map shows more errors — the Vlach (or Wallach) came from Wallachia and so were Romanians and Bulgars, the vast majority of whom settled further east in the Banat and Transylvania. As to the troops in French service, why include Dalmatian troops, when Dalmatia was never part of the Grenz and was administered as a separate Kingdom by the Habsburgs — its population was Croat, Serb, Italian and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Montenegrin!

I am no expert on 7YW uniforms, but the Napoleonic material is largely wrong. The 1769 Doppelstutz was issued with a Hackenlanze ('Hook Pike'), which was 2.52m long (8½ feet), with three holes bored in it to position the hook to support the 5.5kg weapon, according to the man's height. It's not a question of the kneeling position — a long pike is a bit of a giveaway after all! The black bag was used to carry the weapon around and no doubt other equipment. The white trousers were 'Croatian cut', somewhat looser than Hungarian. Most Grenzer wore the traditional Klobuk on field and border service with the later addition of a peak around 1801. Many say it is the ancestor of the shako, but above all the Habsburgs were usually broke and so regulation kit was not that common for those down the line, especially after they were removed from the Line in 1798. The brown jacket was introduced under Archduke Charles' 1807 Grenz reforms, but none were issued to these battalions until 1811 — and was 1798 pattern. By 1811, they were carrying the black-stocked 1798 pattern musket. Question: where is the 'black belt' which soiled the uniforms? The 1807 changes were introduced as a cost saving and at that stage black leatherwork became standard.

David A. Hollins, Stamford

Video releases to buy
The Blue and the Gray
 (Columbia Tristar: 15)
*American Civil War Collectors
 Editions* (Classic Images: E)
The Face of Battle (Classic
 Images: E)
*Yankee Thunder — Rebel
 Lightning* (Classic Images: E)
The American Civil War
 (Labyrinth: E)

PULITZER PRIZE-winning American Civil War historian Bruce Catton's *Reflections on the Civil War* was edited by John Keckly from tapes made by Catton, and published after his death. Keckly had come to know Catton when he showed him a sketch-book which once belonged to Union army soldier John Geyser. Catton was able to identify and elaborate on many of the places of battle and details of army life depicted in the drawings that Geyser had made as an eyewitness. By consulting Geyser's war records, company history and personal documents, they constructed a narrative of Geyser's Civil War experiences which were to form a chapter in Catton's book.

John Geyser, who lived in what was then Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, was one of the original ninety-day volunteers. He joined the 7th Pennsylvania militia regiment on 20 April 1861, just six days after the fall of Fort Sumter which precipitated the war. The regiment was marching north to Harrisburg to be mustered out when Confederate

General

A scene from 'The Blue and the Grey'.



ON THE SCREEN

Beauregard caused panic in Washington by defeating General McDowell at the First Battle of Bull Run. On 1 October 1861, Geyser enlisted for three years in the regular army and was accepted into the Corps of Engineers.

He participated in the Peninsular campaign, and the battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg. He was invalided out of the Corps in January 1863, having caught pneumonia as a result of falling in a river. The remainder of his Civil War career was spent in the Veterans Reserve Corps, suffering from rheumatism. He filled in his time as a clerk in the office of the Chief of Ordnance in the War Department, at the DeCamp General Hospital on David's Island in New York harbour, and finally duties in Washington.

Geyser's story evidently provided the inspiration for the Columbia Pictures Television production *The Blue and the Gray* (1982). Although John Keckly is credited with story and research, this six hour television mini-series bore almost no resemblance to the narrative in Catton's book.

The series begins in October 1859, when John Geyser (John Hammond) announces to his Virginia farming family that he intends to earn a living as an artist for a Gettysburg newspa-

per owned by his uncle Jacob Hale (Robin Gammell). As his first assignment, John is sent to Charlestown to cover the trial of abolitionist John Brown (Sterling Hayden). Here he first meets mysterious government secret service agent Jonas Steele (Stacy Keach). A meeting with crazed slave-hunter Preacher Welles (Warren Oates) convinces John he cannot fight for the South, nor will he fight against them. President Lincoln (Gregory Peck) suggests John should continue in his career to record 'the face of war'. When war breaks out, John's brothers join the Confederate army, while his cousins join the Union army.

It was directed by veteran director Andrew V. McLaglen, whose previous credits include Civil War dramas such as *The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come* (1961), *Shenandoah* (1965) and *The Undefeated* (1969). The series was filmed over a four-month period in Arkansas. The principal locations were Fort Smith, Van Buren, Fayetteville and the actual battlefields of Prairie Grove and Pea Ridge. John Brown's trial was filmed in the Fort Smith courtroom, which in post-Civil War years was presided over by 'Hanging' Judge Isaac Parker. Prairie Grove National Park Historian Paul Kinzer was hired as technical advisor. Three cannons seen and fired in the series were actually used in the war, and the sword worn by Stacy Keach belonged to Captain Jarias G. Evans, Company G, 76th Ohio Infantry. Many re-enactors participated in the filming, using their own arms, equipment and uniforms.

The series encompasses many of the main events of the Civil War up to Lee's surrender at Appomatox. However, this is less a serious dramatisation of the war than a glossy lightweight crowd-pleasing entertainment with all the clichés of Civil War melodrama that were later also to characterise *North and South* (reviewed 'M'42 and 53). The First Battle of Bull Run is quite well filmed, but most of the action sequences are little more than small-scale skirmishes. The series, not seen in this country since broadcast by the BBC some ten years ago, is packaged in a double video-cassette box, and is available only through WH Smith.

Classic Images Productions International are distributing

American Civil War documentaries made by Classic Images Productions Inc. The latter was formed in 1984 by Jack Foley, a Civil War historian and re-enactor, as well as a video producer. Foley realised the 125th anniversary re-enactments of Civil War battles should be captured on video tape. The collection is being made available in three series.

The first, called *Collector's Editions*, depicts ten major battles from both Eastern and Western campaigns. The running times vary between 30 and 60 minutes. The two submitted for review, namely, *Gettysburg* and *Spotsylvania*, exhibit the hallmarks of the series. Thousands of re-enactors represent the armies: the emphasis on accuracy of uniforms and tactics of the American re-enactment groups are well-known, and is evident on the videos. Dialogue is reconstructed from letters, diaries and official records, but the brief acted scenes demonstrate the need for professional actors. Photographs, prints and engravings are used where appropriate. The other titles in the series portray the battles of 1st Manassas, Shiloh, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Vicksburg, Atlanta, Franklin and Appomatox.

The *Faces of Battle* series fills in important gaps in the *Collector's Editions* by depicting three battles in programmes each 30 minutes long. *Cedar Mountain* depicts the relatively minor engagement that took place on 9 August 1862 at what was then known as Slaughter Mountain and a stream called Cedar Run in the vicinity of Culpepper, Virginia. It is an example of how 'Stonewall' Jackson's frustrating habit of failing to communicate his battle plans to his immediate subordinates almost cost him the battle. Not for the last time, the timely arrival of A.P. Hill's light division saved the day. The programme concludes with a brief re-enactment of the Second Battle of Bull Run.

Petersburg concerns the siege of the Virginia city in 1865 by General U.S. Grant's Army of the Potomac. The narration briefly describes Grant's costly Spotsylvania campaign and the elaborate feints which temporarily convinced Robert E. Lee that Richmond was still Grant's principal aim. The failure to take Petersburg before Lee arrived is shown, which resulted in a protracted siege. The notorious battle of the Crater is depicted in some detail.

Bentonville concerns Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston's attempt to ambush lead elements of Sherman's army approaching the important railway junction of Goldsboro in South Carolina in March 1865, and thus prevent the Federals linking with Grant at Petersburg. The programme concludes with Johnston's surrender to Sherman at Bennet's house near Durham station on 17 April 1865, eight days after Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

The last programme is a two-hour documentary called *Yankee Thunder — Rebel Lightning*, which deals with the entire war. This wastes little time over preliminaries; a brief pre-credit sequence dispenses with the crucial election of 1860, which brought Lincoln to the White House and made civil war inevitable. Most of the illustrative material is taken from the ten major re-enactments in the *Collectors Editions* series, although prints, photographs and engravings are again used where appropriate. The narration explains the strategy, tactics, army organisation and weaponry of the war. The programme concludes with a brief postscript dealing with Lincoln's assassination and notes that it would take another hundred years before all American citizens were granted full civil rights. All these videos are available in the PAL format, and it is hoped the European SECAM format will be available in due course. Those interested should write to Classic Images Productions International, PO Box 1863, Chalfont, Chipping Norton, Oxon, OX7 3PD.

Labyrinth have released an 80-minute documentary called *The American Civil War*, a revised version of a four-episode series made for American television in 1983. The first part well explains the political and economic considerations, particularly slavery, that led to war. The second part deals with the first two years of the war, and the third part the last two years. The last part deals with the reconstruction period and the disappointment of blacks who were denied full civil rights. Although real personalities are illustrated by photographs, the events of the war are illustrated mainly by prints and paintings, relying considerably on the all-too-familiar Kurz and Allison prints. There is a limited amount of re-enactment footage but the programme is well illustrated with maps.

Stephen J. Greenhill

PROFILE

Polish Winged Hussar

DICK FISCHER Painting by VELIMIR VUKSIC

IN THIS SECOND of twelve portraits of warriors of all ages and nationalities we examine the flamboyant costume of the 'winged hussar' in 1683.

THE GREAT CAMPAIGN of the Ottoman Turks against Vienna in 1683 marked the end of their 300-year westward expansion. In the 17th century, following the erosion of their governmental and military administration, the Turkish began to be defeated militarily as well. While Grand Viziers held on to the conservative battle tactics with which they had long ago conquered the Balkan peninsula and Danube basin, Turkish commanders began to notice something unforeseen in these battles: a 'devilish' mobile style of warfare, the tactic of coordinated, alternating charges of infantry and cavalry, together with well-planned, steady cannon support.

Several years before the inception of the campaign for Vienna, the Austrian Emperor Leopold I got wind of the Turkish preparations and their goal. Weakened by the uprising of the nobility in upper Hungary and its own war against France (1672-1679), Austria sought the aid of Bavaria, Saxony and the German princes, and with the help of Pope Innocent XI, a powerful alliance was formed between Poland and Austria. As Polish King Jan Sobieski III was both commander-in-chief of the allied forces as well as of the Polish right wing, and Austria's left wing was under the command of Charles of Lorraine, while the centre went to Germany's General Frederick of Waldeck.

One ambassador who observed the battle later wrote, 'The Polish winged hussars charged after those godless Turks like angels from heaven,' inadvertently choosing the symbol of the allied victory — the Polish Winged Hussar.

On 12 September 1683, the morning before the battle, 30,950 cavalry and 36,800 infantry with 152 cannons set off from the allied camp in three columns toward the Turks, just over twelve miles away. The Polish column, with its 14,000 cavalry, 7,000 infantry and 28 cannons, had the longest and


most difficult path. Around noon the Austrian (Imperial) and German troops appeared on the Kahlenberg hill above Vienna, taking the Turks by surprise. Vienna, besieged by 75,000 Turkish troops, was by now at the brink of falling. The first Imperial and German attacks were successful, but the Turks quickly recovered and moved to counterattack. It was not until 16:00 that the Polish forces appeared on the allied right flank. Their entrance on the scene forced the Turkish commander, Pasha Kara Mustafa, to strengthen his left flank facing the Poles with 5,400 cavalry and 5,000 janissaries, thus weakening the pressure on the already exhausted Imperial and German units.

The Poles were arranged in three groups. The King himself commanded the centre, on the left flank was cavalry commander Hieronim Sienawski, and Stanislaw Jablonowski on the right. The land ahead of the Poles was very uneven, covered with bushes and occasional vineyards. The King sent the Royal Hussar troop of Prince Alexander, commanded by Lieutenant Zygmunt Zbierzchowski to check out the terrain. Around 120 winged hussars moved out at a slow trot toward the Turks, only 400 metres away. At about one hundred metres the hussars lowered their lances and charged at a gallop. The startled Turks had expected a provocation, but not an attack. (The Polish motto was: 'First we defeat the enemy, then we count them'.) The Poles penetrated the first row of Turkish cavalry and came to a halt at the second. After losing 54 hussars, they soon had to retreat, having confirmed that the terrain was fine for a cavalry attack.

On the left flank, Sienawski was testing out the terrain in the same manner, sending one troop of hussars on the attack followed by a troop of *pancerni* (mail-clad cavalry) under the command of Stanislaw Potocki — altogether around 250 men. Similarly passing 800 metres,

withstanding a volley along the way from janissaries firing at them from a nearby vineyard, the Poles attacked the Bosnian infantry facing them. They were met by a volley of rifles and 16 cannons, in which Potocki himself was killed. After they lost about half of their men the hussars and *pancerni* turned back at a gallop.

Enraged by what they had seen, the Poles raised a huge uproar, demanding to move into battle. Sienawski ordered 2,000 hussars and *pancerni* to attack, under the command of Marek Matczynski. The Polish charge destroyed the Turkish front lines, but a Turkish cavalry attack on the hussar and *pancerni* flanks stopped any further advance. After their early success, around 5,000 Turkish cavalry kept forcing Matczynski back, hounding his steps. Wanting to take advantage of this opportunity and disorder in the Polish ranks, Kara Mustafa directed at Sienawski yet another 5,000 cavalry which he kept in reserve. In this critical situation for the Polish left flank, with the King's approval and with supporting fire from 12 cannons, the Duke of Saxon-Lauenburg led his dragoon regiments 'Shultz' and 'Kuffstein' in a counterattack. But when even they could not stop the Turkish cavalry, two Imperial cuirassier regiments intervened, which finally stopped the attack. By this time Sienawski had reassembled his cavalrymen and set off on a counterattack, which set the Turks to flight. Observing all this and calculating that there was still one and a half hours of daylight left, Sobieski decided on an overall cavalry attack on Kara Mustafa.

According to the stories of eyewitnesses, the King had kept two royal hussar regiments in reserve and, accompanied by his son Jacob, his herald who carried the royal banner, and one winged hussar, he himself rode at the head of his army, which started everyone shouting. The allied attack on the Polish wing was carried out by 3,000 winged hussars, which undoubtedly left a powerful impression on the observers present. Unable to withstand the powerful charge, the Turkish retreat was soon turned into an overall rout. 



1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry, St Aignan

ONE OF THE most celebrated tank actions of the war was that in which the supreme German tank 'ace' Michael Wittman met his end in August 1944 (see also 'M' 48). Here we look at the Sherman tanks and their crews of the regiment which accomplished this feat.



JOHN 'BUD' ABBOTT

General view of the advance following the breakthrough at Caen with a Sherman Crab flail on the left.

LIKE MOST MILITARY units the Northamptonshire Yeomanry was a child of conflict, born in 1794 as a militia regiment for home service in the event of a French invasion. A precarious childhood then ensued with disbandments and re-formations in response to the latest political crisis until 1902 when the regiment came of age and was admitted to the Army List in the Territorial Force as the Junior Yeomanry Cavalry Regiment. During the First World War the Northamptonshire Yeomanry saw active service for the first time, raising two regiments which were deployed on the western front in France.

Disbanded after the war, the regiment was re-formed in 1920 as the 25th Armoured Car Company (Northamptonshire Yeomanry) Royal Armoured Corps with which designation it remained until 1939 when it was re-embodyed as a full armoured regiment in response to the approach of the Second World War. Shortly after a second line regiment was also formed which was disbanded in France in 1944.

Now designated the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry, it was found that no cap badges were available although numerous collar badges featuring the regiment's leaping silver horse were in stock. These col-

Order of Battle — 1944 A Squadron 1 Troop

Position	Number	Name	Crew	Comments
Officer	1	?	Lt Coakley (cmdr), Tpr Butlerworth (op), Tpr J. Smith (gnr), L/Cpl Pontelow	Ltd Coakley killed 8-8-44 whilst directing fire outside the tank.
Sergeant	2	Odessa	Sgt Ryan (cmdr), Tpr Litster (dvr), Tpr Johnson, Tpr Wood	Lost when bazookered on the night march 7/8-8/44. Sgt Ryan killed.
Corporal	3	Orel	Cpl Bowden (cmdr), Tpr Mills (dvr), Tpr Maher (gnr), Tpr Milne, Tpr Beavis	
Firefly	4	Orenburg	Sgt Finney (cmdr), Cpl Eley (dvr), Tpr Crittenden (gnr), Cpl Green (op)	Lost at St Aignan. Vehicle replacement lost one week later near Lisieux when Sgt Finney was killed. Second replacement survived remainder of tank operations and known to be an M4 hybrid. After St Aignan Sgt Eley left crew to command tank in 3 Troop. First two tanks stated to both have had radial engines.

A Squadron 2 Troop

Officer	5	Brest Litovsk	Ltd Griffith-Jones (cmdr), Cpl Symes (gnr), Tpr Kerr (dvr)	Lost on the night march 7/8-8-44 in fight with self-propelled guns, three of which were destroyed by 2 Troop.
Sergeant	6	Bryansk	Sgt Jeffcoates (cmdr), L/Cpl Stott, Tpr Fountain, Tpr Fryar, Tpr Hopkins	Lost at St Julien 8-7-44. Commander Sgt Jeffcoates wounded. All other crew killed. Replacement lost 7-8-44.
Corporal	7	Belgorod	Cpl Smith (cmdr) Tpr Willey (dvr)	Lost in night action 7/8-8-44.
Firefly	8	Balaclava	Sgt Burnett (cmdr), Tpr Bailey (dvr), Tpr Barudi (op), Tpr Ashworth (gnr)	Lost at St Julien 8-7-44. Tpr Barudi injured and on return went as wireless operator on No 18 (Omsk). Replacement vehicle was a Sherman 1 hybrid. Original tank M4A4, Tpr Gardiner original W/Op.

lar badges were pressed into service for headgear badges, a fact which, as far as I am aware, is unique in British military history. They remained the regiment's headgear badge throughout its subsequent service.

The regiment remained in home service until 1944 when, as senior regiment of the 33rd Armoured Brigade, and as part of the invasion forces, it landed in France on 14 June 1944 equipped with Sherman tanks. The regiment fought with these vehicles until 17 January 1945 when re-equipment took place with Buffalo amphibious tracked vehicles in preparation for the Rhine crossing. The tanks were returned in April 1945 but by this time the war in Europe was nearing the end and no further offensive action was seen.

During the period of tank

A Tiger — not Wittman's — knocked out by the crew of a 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry Sherman who are seen posing on the hull of their victim.

operations the regiment fought on numerous occasions from troop through to regimental strength actions. Possibly their most notable, and certainly most talked about, action was the battle of St Aignan-de-Cramensnil, near Caen, which resulted in the demise of Michael Wittman, the Germans' greatest tank ace at the hands of the Firefly of No 3 Troop, 'A' Squadron, on 8 August 1944.

This is not, and has never been intended to be a history of the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry but a document on the markings of the regiment's vehicles in the D-Day period. In 1988, when our researches



Names indicated as having been allocated to 'A' Squadron vehicles but not necessarily exclusively to the Sherman tanks; Archangel, Gdansk, Kharkov (4 Troop Sherman), Kiev (4 Troop Sherman), Murmansk, Smolensk, Stalingrad, Veliky Luki (3 Troop Sherman), Vostok (3 Troop Sherman), Vilnius (5 Troop Sherman).

A Squadron 3 Troop

Officer	9	LI James (cmdr)	Lost at St Aignan. All crew escaped. Original commander was LI R. F. Neville who was promoted to Captain and moved to replace casualties prior to the first action
Sergeant	10	Vladivostok Sgt Eley (cmdr)	Original commander was Sgt Goosey who was killed by artillery outside Caen. Sgt Eley previously a driver in No 1 Troop.
Corporal	11	Cpl Hillaby (cmdr), Tpr Lowe (op), Tpr Cooper (gnr)	Lost at St. Aignan 8-8-44. Turret crew killed
Firefly	12	Sgt Gordon (cmdr), Tpr Ekhs (gnr)	Lost at St. Aignan.

A Squadron 4 Troop

Officer	13	LI J Smith (cmdr), Culley	Damaged at St Aignan, Shell through mantlet. LI Smith killed. Other crew survived. Original Cmdr LI. Morris.
Sergeant	14	Keich Sgt Powell, Benton, Slenner, Roberts, Roberts	Lost at St Aignan. Turret mechanism jammed by enemy shell and tank used to evacuate wounded and de-horsed crews.
Corporal	15	Sgt Pepperill	
Firefly	16	Kursk Cpl Morales (cmdr), Tpr Roberts (op), Tpr Green (gnr), Tpr Buonvino (dvr)	Lost at St Aignan. All crew escaped. Sherman Vc Firefly T148 /25.

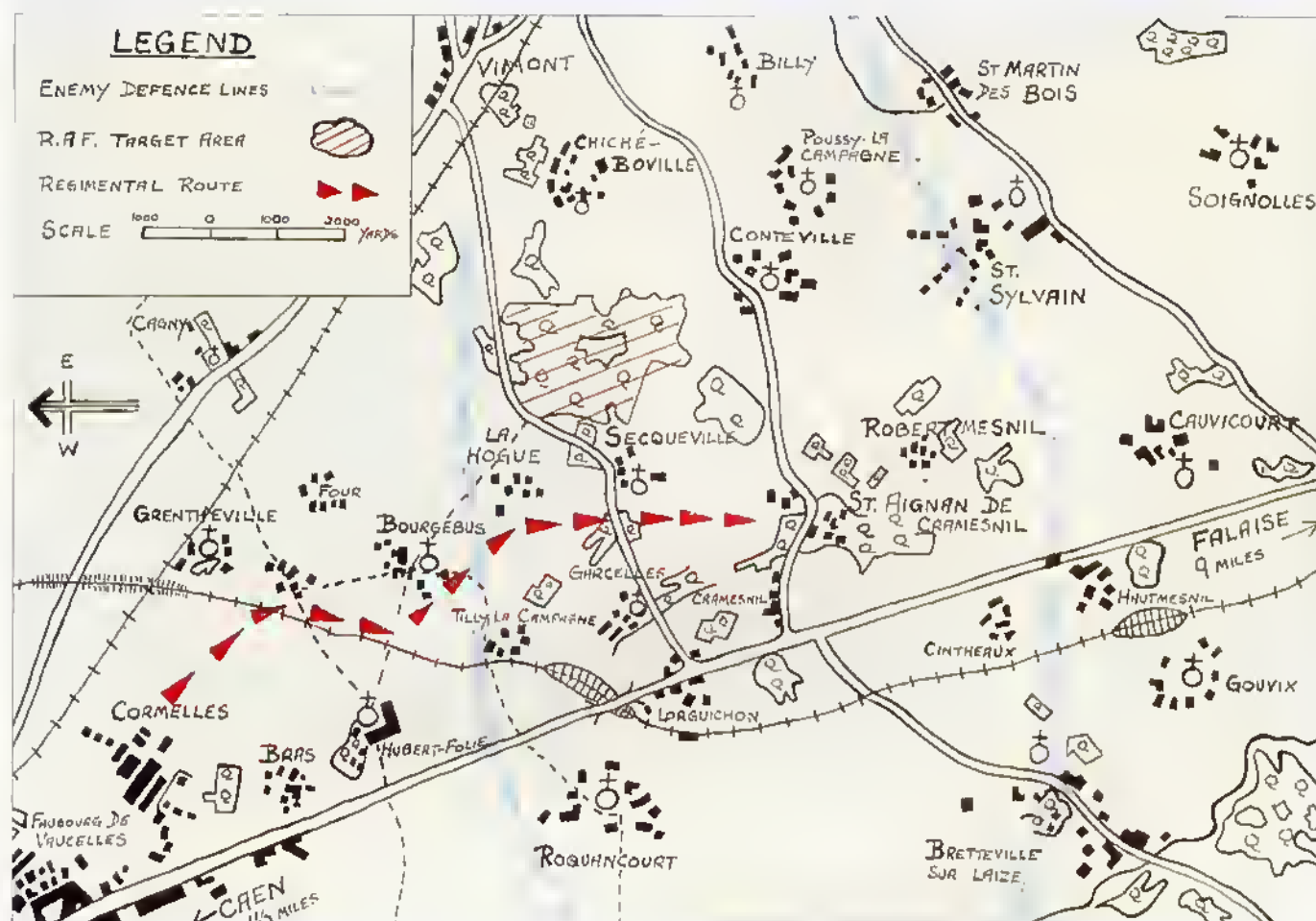
A Squadron HQ(F) Troop

Major	17	Tomsk Maj Skelton (cmdr), Cpl Hayes Sherman (M4) hybrid (dvr), Sgt E King (co/dvr)	
Captain	18	Omsk Capt Boardman (cmdr), Tpr Buck (dvr), Ager (co/dvr), Walker (op), Rutledge (gnr)	Sherman I (M4).
Rear Link	19	Minsk Capt Grant (cmdr), Tpr Harding, Tpr Harris	Sherman V (M4A4). Capt Grant wounded 22-6-44. Tpr Harding killed 22-6-44. Maj Skelton took command 22-6-44 to 13-11-44, following which tank was commanded by Capt Humphries.

were commenced, it was found that no official records existed and the following data has been compiled from private photographs held by ex-Yeomen and their recollection of the period. Also included in the tables are the crews, where known, who took the tanks to France and fought them through the ensuing months and our grateful thanks are extended to them for their tolerance and forbearance whilst we repeatedly asked them to cast their minds back through the mists of nearly fifty years in order to satisfy our whims.

The regiment first made its acquaintanceship with the Sherman tank in October 1943 when it received Sherman 3 (M4A2) diesel-engined variants. Rumour was rife that they were for special amphibious training for the invasion of Europe and the regiment was to be amongst the first troops ashore on D-Day.

The regiment at that time comprised three Squadrons, each containing five troops of three tanks, and a Headquarters Fighting Troop also containing three tanks, totalling 18 tanks per Squadron. Large turret numbers were painted on each side of the turrets running sequentially through the Squadrons and according to normal British practice individual tank names were used. In the majority of instances the names were either phonetically similar or commenced with the same initial letter. The names were thematic and allocated as follows: 'A' Squadron — Russian place names; 'B'



The regiment's night march to St Aignan through German lines, 7/8 August 1944

B Squadron 1 Troop

Officer	25	Alabama	Lt Wall (cmdr), L/Cpl Heavy (dvr), Tpr Burnand (co/dvr), Tpr Clark (gnr)	Lost at Ramondic 5-10-44. Hit by anti-tank gun.
Sergeant	26	Georgia	Sgt Miller (cmdr), Tpr Donaldson (dvr), Tpr Horrocks (co/dvr), L/Cpl Knoth (op), Tpr Robinson (gnr)	Lost St Julien, 17-8-44. Hit by anti-tank gun.
Corporal	27	Indiana	Cpl Own (cmdr), Martin, Carpenter, Blackman, Wright	Sherman 1 — T255075. Only crew in 'B' Squadron to survive tank operations unscathed.
Firefly	28	New Hampshire	Sgt Falconer (cmdr), Cpl Menzies (dvr), Tpr Bailey (op), Tpr England (gnr)	Sherman Vc. Believed lost St Julien 17-8-44.

B Squadron 2 Troop

Officer	29		Lt Morgan (cmdr), Cpl Williamson (dvr)	Lost at Lisieux.
Sergeant	30	Louisiana	Sgt Frost (cmdr), L/Cpl Neal (dvr), L/Cpl Bower (op)	Lost at Lisieux.
Corporal	31		Cpl Dulf (cmdr), Booth (dvr), Tpr Lukins	Lost at Lisieux.
Firefly	32	New Orleans	Sgt Walter (cmdr), Tpr Barrett, Tpr Bradford (dvr), Tpr Swaby, Tpr Hilton	Sgt Walter sick at time of landing in France. Sherman 1c (Firefly) T232649. Vehicle survived tank operations. Tank subsequently transferred to 1 Troop. Sgt Hukson commanded in Normandy. Sgt Falconer commanded in the Ardennes.

Squadron — American States; and 'C' Squadron — South Northamptonshire villages.

The regiment was subsequently redesignated as a normal armoured regiment and in April 1944 the diesel-engined vehicles were issued to the 13/18th Hussars and were replaced with brand new petrol-engined variants. In addition, 12 Sherman 'Firefly' tanks, each equipped with the 17 pdr anti-tank gun instead of the normal 75mm gun, were issued on the basis of one per troop. This resulted in one troop per Squadron being disbanded so that each Squadron was comprised of four troops of four tanks each (including the 'Firefly') plus a Headquarters Fighting Troop which remained at three tanks, making a total of 19 tanks per Squadron.

Tank markings identified as at the time of landing in France were as follows.

Brigade Sign — Green over black dialho on the left side front and rear of the vehicle. Photographs show the marking was usually outlined on a white border.

Regimental number — White '173' on a red square in

Continued on page 16

THE BATTLE OF ST AIGNAN DE CRAMESNIL

The "Fog of War" still obscures many of the events of the great battle of 8th August 1944. Inevitably, in this tense fighting, the Regiment suffered casualties and, for lack of witnesses, many gallant individual actions must go unrecorded. The climax of the day was the heavy counter-attack made by the Germans with a force of over 20 Tanks and a large number of infantry against "A" and "C" Squadron positions. These two Squadrons, later reinforced by part of "B" Squadron, stood their ground despite serious losses. Against their determined front the enemy continued to mount one attack after another until his own losses made further attacks hopeless and he was compelled to withdraw. To obtain a clear picture of what subsequently happened it is necessary to review the situation as it stood at 0700 hours on the morning of the 8th August.

The night march had brought the Regiment four miles through the enemy lines. The early morning attack with the 1st Battalion Black Watch, had established our combined forces firmly in the village of St. Aignan de Cramesnil. This position now formed part of a small island in the middle of enemy territory. Behind, to the North, the enemy held Tilly la Campagne, which was attacked by another Brigade later that morning. Behind and left, to the North East, La Hogue and Secqueville la Campagne was held by the enemy. All the left flank Eastwards was open and to the South and South-West lay the enemy's second defence line. On the right flank we joined up with the 144th Regiment Royal Armoured Corps and beyond, to the West, they were in touch with two Canadian columns who had fought a similar action during the night.

The village of St. Aignan de Cramesnil was bisected by a second class road running West to East and surrounding the village were several orchards which, although they afforded good cover for our Tanks, could be a liability if close fighting developed. Looking towards the enemy through a gap in the orchards on the right, open cornfields could be seen. Straight ahead the view was blocked by two small woods, and a steep-sided gully wound round from the centre to the left and rear, with a ridge beyond it partly obscured by small woods.

As soon as the morning mist had cleared, Lieut.-Colonel Forster checked his Squadron dispositions. "B" Squadron were sitting to the North of the village, in a semi-circle, giving rear protection, one troop contacting the 144th Regiment Royal Armoured Corps to the West, and with troops forward watching due East. Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters

"B" Squadron were together in a small orchard North of the village.

"C" Squadron continued the line forward of the village in a semi-circle facing East, South-East, and South, while "A" Squadron were in the large orchards facing due South, with a Troop on the right keeping an eye on the main road to Falaise. The Black Watch had Company positions in the village in "A" and "C" Squadron areas. "A" Squadron were minus the four tanks they had lost the night before, and "C" Squadron lacked Sgt. Duff who had made the wrong objective. 144th Regiment Royal Armoured Corps found Tilly la Cramesnil and it seems were so pleased with their find that they stuck to him for two days. "C" Squadron reported him missing.

The day opened quietly. There was some heavy mortaring on the road running through the village but Squadron areas were quiet and tank crews managed to cook themselves a meal breakfast. It was about 1050 hours when the Regiment received its first shock. Over the wireless came the news that the Colonel was wounded. He was given first-aid and sent back to Hospital in a half-track. Almost at the same time Major Hon. P. E. Brassey was climbing out of his tank to talk to Lieut. Morgan, when a shell burst and they were both badly wounded. The Medical Half-track had a hair-raising journey on its way back. Later the Colonel described how he lay on his stretcher listening to the sounds of firing at Tilly la Campagne and saying to the driver, who was not very sure of his road, "Keep that machine gun fire to your left", fearing at any minute that they would be put in the bag.

At midday, contact was made with the Polish Armoured Division whose leading Regiment approached from the North with the object of attacking St. Sylvain 5 miles to the South-West of us. Their attack went in at 1300 hours, but as soon as they came into open country, heavy anti-tank gun fire from St. Sylvain destroyed many tanks. Therefore they withdrew to the Northern outskirts of St. Aignan and on the following day renewed



The crew of the 4 Troop, "A" Squadron Firefly which destroyed Michael Wittman's Tiger at St Aignan. Although it has not been possible to identify the other individuals, Gunner Ekins is second from the right, smoking a cigarette.

their attack, which was successful.

Then came a new and frightening experience. An over-enthusiastic formation of Allied Bombers, on their way to attack the enemy Southern defence line, dropped their bombs in the regimental area. Fortunately they did no damage. Captain Llewellyn, describing the occurrence remarked, "I was sitting in my tank when I heard a rushing noise like an express train. Suddenly the tank rocked, everything went completely black and we were smothered by a shower of earth and stones, which continued to rain down on the tank for some seconds. Everything was covered with dust. I thought the end of the world had come."

No. 5 Troop (Lieut. A. James) of "A" Squadron, the forward Troop covering the right flank, were the first to make contact. Sgt. Gordon commanding a 17 pounder tank reported three Tigers advancing slowly North, in line ahead, along the Falaise-Caen road. These were seen at a range of 1200 yards. On hearing Sgt. Gordon's report by wireless, Captain Boardman, Squadron Second in Command, ordered him to hold his fire and moved over to the Troop position where he could control the shooting. When the range had closed to

800 yards Captain Boardman gave the order to fire. Sgt. Gordon engaged the rear tank of the three. Two shots from Tpr. Ekins the gunner, set it on fire. Time 1240 hours. The second tank traversed right and fired three shots at Sgt. Gordon, but anticipating this he was already reversing into cover. Unluckily as he did so, either his turret flap hit a branch of an apple tree or it received a glancing blow from the enemy's shot, whatever the cause it came crashing down on to the Sergeant's head almost knocking him out. Sgt. Gordon, completely dazed, climbed out of his tank and as he did so was wounded by shrapnel, for it must be remembered that the Squadron's position was continually under mortar and shellfire. Lieut. James dashed over to Sgt. Gordon's tank, took command, quickly moved into a new fire position and Tpr. Ekins fired one shot at the second tank. It exploded in a flash of flame. Time 1247. By this time the third Tiger was in a panic, milling around wondering how he could escape. To add to his confusion, Captain Boardman peppered away with 75mm A. P., which stopped him but did not put him on fire. Two shots from Tpr. Ekins settled the matter and this Tank also started to burn. Time 1252. Three Tigers in twelve minutes is not bad business. Captain Boardman later described it as "rather like Practice No. 5 on the ranges at Linney Head".

(Reproduced from *The 1st and 2nd Northamptonshire Yeomanry 1939-1946*, Bunswick, 1946.)

B Squadron 3 Troop

Officer	35	Idaho	11 Margerts (cmr), Cpl Branson (dvr), Tpr Tarmint (co-dvr), L/Cpl Leah (op)	Sherrin 1 - T252771
Sergeant	34	Nevada	Sgt Bamford (cmr), L/Cpl Houghton (dvr), Tpr Mudge (op), Tpr Slothard (gnr)	Lost at Night 25-1-45
Corporal	35	Montana	Cpl Blake (cmr), Tpr Rosser (dvr), Tpr Gibson (co-dvr), Cpl Barry	Survived tank operations. Believed M4A1 or Hybrid. Ron Bowie later commander.
Firefly	36	New Mexico	Cpl Loton (cmr), Tpr Mahedhorne (dvr), Tpr Becker (op), Tpr C. Williams (gnr)	

B Squadron 4 Troop

Officer	37	Washington	Lt Humphries (cmdr), Cpl McKenzie (dvr), Tpr Radley (co/dvr), Tpr Ringley (gnr), L/Cpl Miller (op)	Lt Humphries wounded at Caen 8-7-44, Cpl McKenzie subsequently commanded on 38, L/Cpl Miller subsequently commanded on 39.
Sergeant	38	California	Sgt Warren (cmdr), L/Cpl Harrison (dvr), Tpr Atkins (co/dvr), Tpr Henderson (op), Tpr Meanwell (gnr)	Sgt Warren wounded at Caen 8-7-44, Ardennes 12-1-45.
Corporal	39	Maine	Cpl Head (cmdr), Tpr Sherrock, Tpr Purton, Tpr Young, Tpr Smalley	Lost at Noyers 15-7-44, Replacement crew: Cpl Miller (cmdr), Tpr Bailey, Tpr Martin, Tpr Garner, Tpr Fielding. Name not subsequently used
Firefly	40	New Jersey	Sgt Smith (cmdr), L/Cpl Johnson (dvr), L/Cpl Alexander (op), Tpr Coleman (gnr)	Driver killed and replaced by Tpr Atkins, L/Cpl Alexander to command on 38, Gunner replaced by Tpr Field.

B Squadron HQ(F) Troop

Major	22		Major Braesny (cmdr), Tpr Worthington (dvr), Cpl Boughey (op), Sgt Veal (co/dvr), Tpr Bradford (gnr)	Lost Haunby 27-8-44
Captain	23		Capt Crofts (cmdr), Cpl Hickman (dvr), Tpr McLeod (co/dvr), Tpr Derbyshire (op), L/Cpl Roboles (gnr)	Capt Crofts killed on 27-6-44 whilst on recon in a scout car. L/Cpl Roboles later commanded in No 1 Troop.
Rear Link	24	Virginia	Capt Robinson (cmdr), Cpl Lloyd (co/dvr), Tpr Hooker (gnr), Tpr Letts (op), Tpr Wall (co/dvr)	Capt Robinson wounded 22-6-44, Tank lost at St Julien when commanded by SSM Leacock, Cpl Lloyd subsequently commanded in 3 Troop

Names indicated as having been allocated to 'B' Squadron vehicles but not necessarily exclusively to the Sherman Tanks: Arizona, Florida, Kansas, Oklahoma (75mm Sherman, 2 Troop), Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas.



the normal British fashion. The device was painted on the right hand side at the front and rear of the vehicle. In August 1944, following the disbandment of a number of tank regiments the number was changed to '51', also painted in white on a red background which was the normal marking for the senior regiment of an armoured brigade. This marking was also often seen with a thin white border.

Turret Numbers — Painted in red, outlined in white and apparently painted freehand.

Tank names — Red outlined in white on both sides of the tank above the front section of appliqué armour. The names were allocated as previously described (refer to accompanying lists for individual names). Names within troops, particularly 'A' and 'C' Squadrons, tended to be phonetically similar or commence with the same initial letter. With the issue of the Firefly variants and the allocation of four tanks to a troop, both 'A' and 'C' Squadrons discarded the names of one of the troops and chose new names to coincide with the initial letter already appertaining to the troop to which the Firefly was to be attached. 'C' Squadron chose names which contained two words which some state were deliberately double-barrelled and alluded to the length of the 17 pdr gun! 'B' Squadron apparently chose not to conform to this and reissued the old fifth troop names to number one troop. The original number one troop names, all commencing with the word 'New', were reallocated to the Firefly tanks and 'New Orleans' was chosen as the fourth name. This was the only tank in the Squadron where the name was other than an American State.

Tactical Signs — It would also appear that the rear of the turret was marked with a large geometric device which conformed to standard British markings at the time: 'A' Squadron — Triangle; 'B' Squadron — Square; 'C' Squadron — Circle. These were painted centrally on the rear of the turret and to the left of this was painted the troop number. The colours were once again outlined in white.

Firefly No 16 'Kursk', T148725, of 4 Troop, 'A' Squadron, after being knocked out by an 88mm round at St Aignan. This shows the exit hole. Incidentally, the crew escaped alive.

H.M. King George VI inspects 3 Troop, A Squadron on 27 April 1944 prior to their departure for France. In the background is Corporal Hillaby's tank which was lost at St Aignan.



As far as can be established the majority of tanks issued for the invasion were Sherman 1 (M4) variants for the 75mm gun tanks and Sherman 5 (M4A4) variants for the Fireflies. However, it is known from photographic evidence that 'New Orleans' was a Sherman 1 and 'Orenburg' is reputed to have been a radial engined variant.

Battle Replacements — The recollections of the crews, supported by photographic evidence, suggests that the majority of replacement tanks, both 75mm and Fireflies were of the Sherman 1 (M4) hybrid variant with the cast front and welded rear hull. Markings on these vehicles after August 1944 appear to have been confined to the brigade diablo and regimental tactical sign painted on the front and rear of the hull and the Squadron geometric sign and troop number painted in white on the rear of the turret. Tank names were dispensed with until after the tanks were returned following the Rhine crossing and the turret numbers were never replaced. They were apparently found to be superfluous in that during the early stages of the campaign the turrets were invariably covered in camouflage and immediately following the battle of Le Havre in September 1944 spare track plates were welded to the turret sides on a number of vehicles as additional armour which in any case completely hid the number.

As far as can be ascertained this is as complete a record of the regiment's naming and numbering system ever compiled. This article deals specifically with Sherman tanks with which the regiment fought and takes no account of the Recce Troop Stuart tanks, armoured cars or soft-skinned 'B' echelon vehicles. These vehicles are also thought to have been named although it has not been found possible at this stage to establish if the names followed some system or were merely at the whim of the crew. Some unallocated names are known to have existed. Some of these could obviously have related to the disbanded troops of Shermans but the following names are known to have been used on other vehicles: 'B'

C Squadron 1 Troop

Officer	45	Colesbrook	Lt Faulkner, Faulkner (dvr), Pritchice (op)	Lost at St Aignan.
Sergeant	44	Cotworth	Sgt Mapley	
Corporal	45	Gatesby	Cpl Rogers (cmdr), Tpr Russell (dvr), McCranahan, Rushion, Hill	Hugh McCranaghan killed in action in Ardennes by mortar fire. Ralph Hill left crew following sporting accident in Holland whilst playing football! Lost at Le Taille.
Firefly	46	Chipping Warden	Cpl Hume	Crew in Ardennes: Snowden (Cmdr), Rushion, Teeling, Howell.

C Squadron 2 Troop

Officer	47	Sulgrave	Lt Heaven	Lost at St Aignan.
Sergeant	48		Sgt Thompson (cmdr), Charlie Morris (op), Fred Fox (gnr), D T Booker (Coi Dvr)	Lost at St Aignan.
Corporal	49			Lost at St Aignan.
Firefly	50	Stony Stratford		Believed later replaced by Stoke Bruerne. Lost at St Aignan.

C Squadron 3 Troop

Officer	51	Helidon	Lt McColl (cmdr), Tpr Foxley, Tpr Teeley, Tpr Plant, Tpr Munroe	Lt McColl killed at Raamsdonk. Sherman 1 — T232724. Vehicle lost at battle of Raamsdonk.
Sergeant	52		Sgt Wilkins (cmdr), Tpr Pride, Tpr Thorn (gnr), Tpr Tyler (cockdvr)	Tank brewed 21 or 22-8-44 at Bosquetaine by SP gun.
Corporal	53	Helidon	Cpl Hickson (cmdr), Tpr Troup, Tpr Rawlins, Tpr Richards, Tpr Roberts.	Tank lost at battle of La Taille. Cpl Hickson killed. Crew after La Taille: Cpl Snowden (cmdr), Tpr Fout (op), Tpr Tucker (gnr), Hicken (dvr), Jackson (co/dvr). Replacement lost Loop-op-Zond.
Firefly	54	Hauging Houghton	Sgt Gibbs (cmdr), Lt Col McKenzie, Tpr Caputo, Tpr Reed H.	Sherman Vc involved in the battle of Raamsdonk and knocked out an SP gun (Hetzer) whilst ditched. 1 number ended in 855 and was directly beneath tank name. Vehicle had no appliqué armour.



Lieutenant Brown (centre) with members of the crew of 4 Troop, 'A' Squadron Sherman 1 number 55 'Lillingsstone' prior to the battle of St Aignan during which the vehicle was lost.

Squadron fitters' White half-track — 'Liberator' (name changed to 'Conqueror' on entering Germany); 'C' Squadron Armoured Recovery Vehicle (turretless Sherman) — 'Blisworth'; 'C' Squadron Fitters' White half-track — 'Chapel Brampton'; White Medical half-track — 'Faith', 'Hope' and 'Charity'. **MI**

St Aignan de Cramesnil — Losses

According to the official war diary of the Regiment the statistics for the battle of St. Aignan-de-Cramesnil are as follows: enemy losses — 5 Tigers, 4 Panthers, 6 Panzer Mk IVs and 5 self-propelled guns. Total 20 armoured vehicles. The diary also states that 3 tanks were claimed by Capt Boardman personally.

The Yeomanry losses were put at 20 tanks including 5 Sherman 5c (Firefly) tanks. Unfortunately, the diary does not make clear whether or not the figures include the action which took place on the night march preceding the action and is known to be incorrect in that at least one of the Firefly tanks (Orenburg) lost was in fact a radial-engined Sherman 1 or 1 hybrid.

1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry, name and number sequence 1943/44 when issued with Sherman III's

	'A' Squadron	'B' Squadron	'C' Squadron
1 Troop			
1		24 New Hampshire	41 Coltesbrook
2 Odesa		25 New Mexico	42 Culworth
3 Orel		26 New Jersey	43 Catesby
2 Troop			
4 Brest Litovsk	27		44 Sulgrave
5 Bryansk	28 Louisiana		45
6 Belgorod	29		46
3 Troop			
7	30 Idaho		47 Helmdon
8 Vladivostok	31 Nevada		48
9	32 Montana		49 Hellidon
4 Troop			
10	33 Washington		50 Lillingsstone
11 Kerch	34		51 Lamport
12	35 Maine		52 Litchborough
5 Troop			
13	36 Alabama		53
14	37 Georgia		54
15	38 Indiana		55
HOF Troop			
16 Tomsk	21 California		56 Bugbrooke
17 Omsk	22		57 Brackley
18 Minsk	23 Virginia		58 Brixworth
Regt HQ Troop			
19 London	39 Chung King		

C Squadron 4 Troop

Officer	55	Lillingsstone	Lt Brown (cmdr), L/Cpl Hunt (dvr), Tpr Cuthbertson (co/dvr), L/Cpl Dwight (op), Tpr Monkman (gnr)	Sherman 1. Lost at battle of St Aignan.
Sergeant	56	Lamport	Sgt Duff (cmdr), Tpr Scobie (dvr), Tpr Graham (gnr)	Regiment's first success on 26-6-44 at battle of La Taille. Panther tank and eight-wheeled armoured car destroyed.
Corporal	57	Litchborough	Cpl Good (cmdr), Tpr Alexander (dvr), Tpr Carrico (dvr), L/Cpl Madelaine (op), Tpr Worley (gnr)	Cpl Snowden to command on replacement 55 Hellidon after La Taille battle. Replacement driver Tpr Callender.
Firefly	58	Long Buckby	Sgt Wright (cmdr), L/Cpl Taylor (dvr), L/Cpl Snowden (op), Tpr Martyn (gnr)	Lost at battle of La Taille 26-6-44. Tpr Martyn awarded the Military Medal for his actions subsequent to the vehicle being disabled.

C Squadron HQ(F) Troop

Major	59	Buckingham	Maj Boyan (cmdr), Sgt Bates (dvr), Cpl Bolton (op), Tpr Pedder (gnr), Tpr Pateman (co/dvr)	
Captain	60	Brackley	Cpl Fox, Tpr Dixon (gnr), Cpl Watkinson (dvr), L/Cpl Smith (op), Tpr Kemp (co/dvr)	
Rear Link	61	Brixworth	Capt Rathbone (cmdr), L/Cpl Hunt (dvr), L/Cpl Marchant (op), Tpr Martin (gnr), L/Cpl Hood (co/dvr)	T263281. Lost at St Aignan. Commanders on this tank during tank operations: Capt Rathbone/Capt Todd/SSM Turton/Cpl Toul/Capt Todd.

Names indicated as having been allocated to 'C' Squadron vehicles but not necessarily exclusively to Sherman tanks: Bugbrooke (name originally allocated but believed to have been abandoned on the Colonel's orders before the Regiment went to France), Charwelton, Creaton, Silverstone, Spratton, Slaveron, Carons Ashby, Cottingham, Evenley.

French 3rd Regiment of Cuirassiers, 1806-15

NEIL LEONARD



TO THE BRITISH the image of the French cuirassier will always be one immortalised by heroic cavalry charges up the slope of Mont St Jean, flashing blades, gleaming steel breastplates and helmets glinting in the sun, as they make their way through the mud and gun smoke to be smashed to pieces on the immovable rocks of the determined battalion squares of the British army.

A terrifying sight indeed, accompanied by the thundering hooves of thousands of horses, piercing trumpet calls, cannon and musket fire. But a sight that was almost welcomed as blessed relief by the tattered remnants of proud regiments clinging to their colours in the storm of fire, from 'Le Brutal' or the French artillery, which had torn great lanes through their ranks, and did the real damage and carnage amongst the densely packed squares of red-coated infantry on 18 June 1815.

Those images are forever assigned to the history books, but for one small group of Napoleonic enthusiasts who have spent the last three years working to the highest standards of authenticity to re-create in the minutest of detail, every aspect of the French cuirassier of the Napoleonic period.

The regiment chosen for the project was the 3rd Cuirassiers, simply because of the large amount of detail available on that particular regiment, due to the colonel's obsession with regard to dress and dress regulations. Those he meticulously recorded. The resulting documents still survive today and were made available for research purposes to members of the project.

Every item of uniform kit and equipment has been made entirely by hand. For example the type of throat, the type of stitch, even the measurements between the stitches were closely examined on original items still surviving today; before work on the reconstructions even began, this required several trips to the French National Army Museum and the Salon de Provence Museum.

With the outbreak of the French Revolutionary Wars in 1792, the French probably had the poorest trained and equipped cavalry arm of any of the major European powers; regular cavalry regiments were almost always starved of the necessary re-mounts, and new



THIS MONTH WE examine the basic dress of the cuirassier trooper, while subsequent articles will look at the armour, horse furniture and equipment.

equipment was almost unheard of. Morale was at a very low ebb, and only one regiment in the entire French service had retained the cuirass, this being the 9th Regiment. The rest of the French cavalry, unless a Hussar or Chasseur regiment, were simply referred to as heavy line regiments.

When Napoleon Bonaparte seized power in 1799, he immediately set about the reformation of the cavalry arm. Apart from the foundation of the new Consular Guards which not only contained cavalry, but infantry, foot and horse artillery, his ideas for the reformation of the cavalry brought about the re-introduction of the old style cuirass which had been abandoned fifty years earlier at the height of the Wars of the Austrian Succession — and which in the Prussian army at least had delivered many a decisive blow under the leadership of Von Seydlitz.

Heavy cavalrymen in the cuirass had led all the charges in Frederick's battles. At great Prussian victories such as Zorndorf and Rossbach, the

cuirassiers had smashed through all opposition, leaving complete havoc in their wake.

Napoleon Bonaparte was determined to field such a force as this, thus, his reforms resulted in 12 heavy cavalry regiments being issued with the seemingly outdated cuirass, while other cavalry regiments were being converted to dragons.

At the outset of the research into the reconstructions it was decided to represent the 3rd Cuirassiers at three different periods of time, there being small but very noticeable differences in style of dress, cut of the coats, hair styles, etc, which will be detailed and pointed out in the captions accompanying the photographs; therefore the reconstructions range from 1806 through 1815.

JACKETS

The first of the uniform jackets to be made was that of what the group have termed 'Jena man' and is cut and tailored in the style of 1806. Between 1802 and 1806 the regiment had been almost continually at war

and according to the regimental records hardly any new items of kit were issued. Over this length of time the uniforms would have been in very poor condition indeed. To start with evidence suggests that the uniform jackets were not made to a very high standard. They feature cut-away lapels and real turnbacks at this period, which are buttoned down. As no surviving trooper's jackets of the 1806 period exist today, the reconstruction is entirely based on the pattern of a uniform jacket of the Imperial Guard 1804 pattern, all measurements being carried out in the old French *pouce* or inch, approximately 27mm, which is based on the size of a man's thumb.

BREECHES

These were known as *cullott de peau*, and were made of sheepskin with a huff finish. The hirtle for the reconstructions was supplied by F. Stierl and Co of Leeds, the suppliers of the hirtles that go to make the leather breeches that are still worn by the Household Cavalry for ceremonial duties. The patterns for the breeches were based on those of the 1812 Bardin regulations. All seams were hand stitched on the outside, to prevent chafing of the legs when on horseback, and the pattern is so designed that no seam whatsoever appears on the inside of the leg. For the same reasons the buttons for the leather breeches were made of bone and covered with chambré leather, with a twisted leather shank. When on foot the uniform jacket and breeches would have been worn with white woollen stockings and straight laced leather shoes with white metal buckles. The buckles were supplied by the Godfrey Godwin company in the USA, and the shoes were made to order following the shoe pattern for 1814/18 by Sarha Juniper Cordwainers.

SABRES, SURTOUS AND HABITS

The sabre is worn over the shoulder in this form of dress 'en haubrière'. Our 1806 trooper should in theory be wearing a surtout. However, in keeping with the known facts, regarding the regimental inspection reports, he has not got one, because in 1805 of 640 all ranks (of which 34 were officers, 545 cuirassiers and NCOs), in the whole regiment only 417 had 'habits'. There were 352 surtouts of which 136 were 'hors de service'. These





Facing page, top left:
Lenoe a pied 1806, with the same worn as a banyolier with shoes and woollen stockings.



Above left and right:
Two views of the voluminous cavalry cloak, without sleeves. This was soon to be altered by the 1812 regulations to include sleeves.

Facing page, top right:
Rear view of the 1806 trooper; note the real tumbucks of this period.

Facing page, bottom left:
The 1812 soldier is a brigadier or corporal; he wears the later style of habit/surcoat, basically a single-breasted jacket.

Facing page, bottom right:
The rear view of the 1812 soldier shows the shortened tails introduced before the regiment marched off to Russia for the disastrous campaign of 1812. These are thought to be an attempt to avoid problems with the tails of longer style tunics rucking up whilst in the saddle.



Right:
A brief preview of the stable dress, which will be further examined in part two.

From Tito's Yugoslavia to the Present Struggle

VELIMIR VUKSIC and DICK FISCHER

WORLD WAR II came to an end with a victory for Tito's communist-led partisans and the fall of the Independent State of Croatia. Once again Croatia became but a part of another people's state — Yugoslavia, this time not under a Serbian monarch, but under a communist party taking its orders from Moscow. Although Tito was Croatian, his loyalties lay elsewhere; specifically to the international communist movement and its Yugoslav manifestation which he headed. The communists' promises of democracy and freely elected government very quickly came to naught, just as everywhere else in Eastern Europe, and they very soon shoved their non-communist wartime allies out of power, ruling Yugoslavia with an iron fist. Although with time Yugoslavia evolved into a somewhat more humane and freer society than its other communist neighbours, Tito clearly reigned from Belgrade like an absolute monarch, implementing decisions throughout the country through his party, the so-called League of Communists.

Croatia as a political entity was once again but a part of the Yugoslavia whole, with no special influence or self-rule. On the contrary, their recent history during the Independent State of Croatia — and its nationalistically motivated atrocities — had provided a rationale for the communists to once again reduce Croatian influence and actual political power on its own territory to the very minimum.

In 1948 Tito broke with Stalin, causing the first major rift in Russia's post-war European empire. The break forced Yugoslavia to begin setting aside a great percentage of its budget for defence, never sure of when or how Russia may attempt to regain the rebel country into the fold. One consequence was that from that time, the Yugoslav army, already justifiably proud of its resistance to Hitler after 1941, grew into a great fighting force, unparalleled in the Balkans, and one of the largest in Europe.

45 years in the shadow

The Communists perceived that the great threat to their grip on power was the various national aspirations of its diverse nations, so the government resolutely educated and

CONCLUDING OUR SERIES on the Croatian Warrior from the 9th century to the present day, we examine how the current situation arose and some of the major events within the conflict of the last three years.



Croatian soldier at the start of the war with Serbia, summer 1991. His haircut is the same warrior style worn by Croats from the 7th up until the beginning of the 18th centuries.

punished its citizens with the aim of eventually eliminating any loyalties other than to the Yugoslav state. In Croatia innocent expressions of national feeling — such as displaying the old Croatian coat of arms, or singing the national hymn — were harshly punished, with violators depicted as fascist

'Ustashi'. Although these longings could be temporarily beaten down, they eventually always resurfaced, even within the Party. In 1971 Tito carried out a major purge of nationalism within his country, targeting the Croatian communists for their efforts to gain more autonomy for the Croatian communist party and Croatian nation within the Yugoslav federation. Later, after Tito's death in 1980, the federal presidency was set up on a cumbersome rotating basis, with a delegate from each republic and semi-autonomous province, largely

to prevent any one republic in the federation from gaining dominance over the rest. But within months the army was called out to put down demonstrations of Albanians in Kosovo, in southern Serbia, who were calling for autonomy and national rights.

Within Croatia, the 'national issue' was constantly present just below the surface. The all-important role of the Croatian League of Communists in society, which became increasingly dominated by Serbians, slowly led to ethnic Serbian leadership in Croatian government; the army, police, the country's major industries, banks, all of which were heavily dependent on the right political (ie Party) connections. By the end of the 1980s, amidst the economy's poor productivity and as Tito's foreign debts came due, Yugoslavia's socialist experiment had run aground. The country was in deep trouble economically, and as inflation ran out of control throughout Croatia, widespread resentment over Belgrade's control of Croatia's resources intensified dramatically.

Yugoslavia unravels

The spark that blew Yugoslavia apart did not come from Croatia, however, but was ignited by the raw appeal to Serbian nationalism of Slobodan Milosevic, the head of the Serbian Communist Party. Appealing to the alleged harassment of Serbs by the Albanian majority down in Serbia's autonomous Kosovo province, Milosevic embarked on a campaign to heighten ethnic Serbian (that is anti-Albanian, as well as anti-Croatian and anti-Muslim) feeling throughout all of Yugoslavia, which in Croatia focused especially around the city of Knin in southern Croatia with its large Serb population.

At the same time, the Communists' unpopularity because of the economic mess was forcing them to accept multiparty elections for the first time since World War II, as well as referenda about the Yugoslav Federation's future. Both in Croatia and Slovenia the electorate responded with overwhelming support for cutting ties with old socialist Yugoslavia and going it alone. Having attempted and failed to gain some kind of confederation status for the Croats and

Slovenes within the Yugoslav state, and with the Serbs paralysing the federal presidency, in June 1991 both Croatia and Slovenia declared their independence.

Independence brought both relief, excitement and fear, depending on whose interests were being examined. The Croats finally had control of their own destiny once again, and generally saw themselves as free of both communism's destructive economics and

Serbian dominance. Their symbols and songs came 'out of the closet' again and their flags waved defiantly in the faces of their old rulers. For the Serbs in Croatia, however, things looked differently. Many of their leader lost their influence in the power structure almost overnight, as Croats reclaimed the police, the army, the media, the governing bureaucracy for their own, with sometimes drastic replacement of Serbian with Croatian administration. This reversal of fortunes fueled a bitter, nervous climate among them. And in Serbian villages, this was adroitly turned into fear of what

might be around the next corner for them in this new Croatian land.

The war in Croatia

Croatia was terribly unprepared for three very significant developments which were taking place simultaneously amidst its Serbian minority. First, throughout Croatia's territories with a significant Serbian population, a well-organised rumour campaign began stirring up fear about an impending 'Ustashi' revival ushered in by the newly elected Croatian authorities, and what it would mean for Serbs living there. Secondly, the Yugoslav army began systematically arming

Croatia's Serb civilian population, particularly around Knin and in villages and towns where the Serbian population was aroused. The moderate Serbian party, which had won substantial majorities in the election, was forced from office, as armed extremists demanded secession from Croatia. Then thirdly, in town after town, armed groups of Serbs, led by trained commanders and fortified by paramilitary units from Serbia, harried

Croatian in the first regular tailored uniforms, 1991. He is wearing an officer's belt and boots from the Yugoslav army reserves.

The primary infantry weapon is the Kalashnikov made in Yugoslavia, Romania or Hungary.



ed towns, forcibly taking over police stations and munitions storage buildings. As Croatian police and guard units moved in to put down these outbreaks, they were repeatedly confronted and kept out by units of the Yugoslav army, which was overwhelmingly Serbian-controlled and which had stepped in force to intervene. Their alleged and official purpose was to prevent violence, but what they were consistently doing, in fact, was protecting the gains of the rebels.

Soon the army quit pretending it was neutral and went openly on the offensive, paving the way for Serbian takeovers of strategic positions and pounding the Croatian populace with heavy artillery. This scenario repeated itself in city after city from August to December 1991, until Croatian units were facing the army from southern Dalmatia up to near Zadar, to Karlovac and Petrinja south of Zagreb, in western Slavonia and as far east as Vukovar.

Croatia in 1991 was no match for the mighty Yugoslav army. Despite massive defections of the Yugoslav army's Croatian and Slovene contingents, some embarrassing setbacks, and morale problems, its raw power and arms supply would enable it to wage war for years. Meanwhile Croatia, with very little weaponry (and forbidden to purchase more by the UN arms embargo), was being battered mercilessly. The 'Yugoslav' army moved on from areas with significant Serbian minorities and began pounding cities with solid Croatian majorities — like Osijek (67% Croatian, 20% Serb), Zadar (83% Croatian, 10% Serb), Šibenik (84% Croatian, 11% Serb) and Dubrovnik (82% Croatian, 7% Serb). Civilian targets — private homes, schools, hospitals, funeral gatherings, Croatian archaeological sites and museums — all became targets of mortar fire in city after city, in an apparent attempt to destroy whatever was Croatian.

As Croatia pleaded for the world to recognise its independence and stop the bloodshed, the West looked on dumbfounded and confused, unsure as to what was happening. Instead of the sympathy and support it expected for embracing multiparty democracy and peaceful self-determination, Croatia was faulted for precipitating the breakup of Yugoslavia and the war that fol-

Operation 'Vukovar'



Slavonia is a province in north-eastern Croatia directly south of Hungary, with a population of about 1,350,000, of which 17.2% are Serbians. This territory is the most fertile soil in Europe, and is therefore one of the richest parts of Croatia. From the 10th century onward, until falling under Turkish control in 1527, Slavonia was a constituent part of Croatia and the Hungarian-Croatian kingdom. After its liberation from the Turks in the Great Turkish War (1683-1699), Slavonia was attached to Croatia as a constituent part of the Austrian Empire, and after 1866 of Austria-Hungary. Since 1918 Slavonia has been a part of the republic of Croatia, within Yugoslavia. At no time in its whole history has it ever belonged to Serbia.

Serbs arrived in Slavonia in five major waves. Most of the 35,000 Serbs who fled from Turkish terror settled in Slavonia after 1699, then during the reign of Queen Maria Theresa (1740-1780), Serbs moved there with their families where they were received into service in the Military Frontier along the Danube river. (The oldest preserved Serbian Orthodox church register dates the founding of a parish in Erdut in 1756, compared with Croatian and Hungarian records from the 13th century); it was colonised with Serbian soldiers in 1918 after World War I; then, after World War II,

150,000 Germans, whose ancestors had settled in Slavonia and Vojvodina after 1699, were driven out and the area resettled by Serbs and Croats from unproductive areas of Dalmatia; and finally, because Croatia was richer and more developed economically, the Yugoslavian authorities permitted the resettlement of large numbers of workers from the undeveloped parts of Serbia and Bosnia.

Vukovar is a Croatian city and port on the Danube. It is mentioned as early as the 12th century as a fortified city, called Vukovo, and appears in the 17th century with the addition of 'var' (meaning city, in Hungarian). In 1991 the city had 84,000 inhabitants of which 43.8% were Croats and 37.4% were Serbs. Slavonia's other large cities were: Osijek — 165,000 population (67.1% Croatian, 20.1% Serbian), Slavonski Brod — 114,000 (85.2% Croatian, 6.5% Serbian), Vinkovci — 98,000 (79.6% Croatian, 13.4% Serbian), Đakovo — 53,000 (91.7% Croatian, 3.8% Serbian) and Zupanja — 49,000 (87.6% Croatian, 2.5% Serbian). In between these cities lie villages with mixed populations, with majorities of Croatian, Serbian or Hungarian populations. The largest concentration of Serbian villages is along the Danube river between Erdut and Vukovar.

In the war against Croatia in

Croats improvised many of their weapons. Pictured are two mechanics who are mounting a 20mm Oerlikon anti-aircraft gun, produced during World War II, on a truck, Osijek, summer 1991.

1991, Serbia proclaimed Slavonia to be its historical territory and decided to occupy it with their army troops. The operation was called 'Vukovar', which was to become the centre of the new Serbian district. Whereas Europe heard this was a war for the protection of Serbian minorities, in fact the struggle was in Europe Croatia's richest territory.

The first phase of the plan envisioned an attack on Vukovar with one corps from the north and one from the south, aided by the garrisons from Vinkovci, Osijek and Vukovar. After the fall of Vukovar, during the second phase, armoured wedges were to skirt Osijek and Vinkovci and connect up with the third corps from Bosnia. The Serbs had already occupied the Croatian district of Banja Luka (41.9% Croatian, 25.5% Serbian, 16.5% Hungarian) from where paratroops at Valpovo were to help occupy Slavonia.

Prior to the attack in the Serbian villages, the Yugoslav army (JNA) had armed the local militias who blockaded communication links with barricades, allegedly to protect them from the 'Ustashi'. A Chetnik



unit of 2,000 heavily armed soldiers was formed near Vukovar, and the town of Mirkovci was transformed into a fortress with 2,500 Chetniks. Yugoslav army tanks were stationed on all important highways and crossroads, allegedly to prevent conflicts between Serbs and Croats. In the triangle Osijek-Vukovar-Vinkovci, counting the garrisons in Vinkovci and Osijek and brigades from Novi Sad and the 252nd from Valjevo, there were about 10,000 JNA and Chetnik soldiers, and around 100 tanks, mobile cannons and armoured transports. Croatian forces, counting the regular troops of the National Guard 3rd Brigade, regional and city police and armed volunteers, were about 5,000 strong. Overhearing radio communications and guessing what was about to happen, the citizens and local organisations of armed volunteers had earlier attacked the blockaded garrisons in Osijek, Vinkovci and Vukovar. (In later peace negotiations the garrison from Vinkovci was allowed to pass through into Serbia, while the 12th Brigade from Osijek broke through toward Erdut with losses of around 200 men and 30 vehicles.) During the blockade JNA cannons flattened the city

around it out of revenge.

On the morning of 14 July two Serbian corps with around 30,000 men and 500 armoured vehicles began moving from Serbia towards Vukovar. Calculating that they would easily conquer the city, Serbian units attacked the defences in passing, with the first wave of two armoured mechanised brigades and local Chetniks suffering heavy losses. During the night of 20-21 July a message from Belgrade was intercepted that the Armoured Guards Division, which included armoured brigades from Belgrade, Pozar and Valjevo with 360 armoured vehicles and around 4,500 men, under the command of General Vranjesevic, had set off from Belgrade toward Vukovar. For five hours these units passed through Belgrade, demonstrating their strength. Near the town of Tovarnik, two kilometres inside Croatian territory, the head of the column ran into an ambush. Following that attack a whole day was needed to establish order and proceed further. It took three months to totally surround the city and cut off its lines of support.

In the beginning the defence consisted of around 1,000 men, armed mostly with small arms,

organised into local territorial companies. When under attack, volunteers from all over Croatia rushed to Vukovar's defence, growing to a force of around 3,000. Of these the 204th Brigade with four battalions was formed. Later the defenders would receive three artillery batteries and a mixed rocket division. All of the vital services were hidden in basements or buried underground. With the help of construction equipment and the local population, the city was turned into a fortress. Because of the arms embargo imposed by the European community, the Croatian government obtained arms on the black market, sending, among other things, about 100 hand-held antitank guns in the first shipment to Vukovar. With these weapons the Serbs were stopped in the city's outskirts, losing 28 tanks and about 300 men in the first battles. Three tanks and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition were captured. Even while Vukovar was totally surrounded, the city was resupplied with arms and ammunition during the night by a two-winged An-2 agricultural aircraft.

Vukovar fell on 18 November, due to a lack of ammunition, although individual isolated groups fought on for

almost another month. The final result was a city in total ruins, which had been hit by an average of 7,000 shells a day, with one day reaching 20,000 at the height of the fighting. Within the city itself and during the breakthrough out of the encirclement, 1,850 defenders and civilians were killed, around 2,000 were captured and later exchanged for Serbian prisoners of war, around 2,500 disappeared, over 200 badly wounded were liquidated and buried near the village of Ocvar, and the surviving 10,000 Croats with 2,000 children were driven out of the city and surrounding villages. About 1,000 people successfully broke through the encirclement. It is estimated that the Serbians lost between 10,000 and 15,000 men, 250 tanks and armoured transport vehicles, and 29 aircraft. Belgrade's elite Armoured Guards Division was totally destroyed. The five-month long battle for Vukovar saved Croatia, as it made possible for Croatia to organise its defence. Ironically, after Vukovar's fall the Serbian government organised an exhibition of photographs in the Yugoslav Cultural Centre in Paris entitled 'How the Croats destroyed Serbian Vukovar'.

The War in Bosnia-Herzegovina

A similar scenario as to what had happened in Croatia was prepared by Serbia and the Yugoslav Army (JNA) for Bosnia and, predominantly Croatian, Herzegovina. All of the bases were strengthened with Serbian reservists, and tanks were stationed along all the vital communication links and buildings, with the explanation that this was to prevent inter-ethnic strife. The war in Croatia had been raging for a year already, with the consequence that there were fewer Serbs in Bosnia, with most on the battlefields in Croatia. The Croatian government kept warning Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic that his country was next, but on the one hand he did not believe that the world powers would permit Serbian aggression, and on the other hand he avoided any kind of action so as not to offend the Serbs. The Muslims were totally unprepared for war. During the war in Croatia, Croats seized a Yugoslav army base full of weapons and ammunition in the port city of Ploce, near their frontier with Herzegovina. The Croats succeeded in capturing about 90 truckloads of war material before the base was destroyed from the air. Some of this was sent toward Split, but most of the weapons were used to arm Herzegovina. Then also, over 150,000 Croats from Herzegovina who were working almost entirely monthly

defence contributions through their societies of £100. This money was used to purchase arms for Herzegovina's defence. The price of one Kalashnikov was around £800 and one could buy three bullets for one pound.

The Serbs knew that the Croats, with a population of around 750,000 or 17% of the total, would be their greatest problem in Bosnia-Herzegovina. While one part of the Serb forces were to conquer Sarajevo, and a smaller part guard the garrisons in other cities, the remainder was to conquer Herzegovina (with its 225,000 Croats). Estimates are that for that plan the Serbs had 55,000 men and around 500 armoured vehicles plus air support, around 100 helicopters and the full support of the Serb population which altogether came to about 40% of the population.

When the Serbian aggression began, Izetbegovic shot himself up in Sarajevo with his armed police forces, leaving Bosnia-

Herzegovina in Serb devastation. It took two full months before Izetbegovic plainly told the world that the Serbs had attacked Bosnia-Herzegovina, always hoping that he could still negotiate with them.

The Croats succeeded in destroying Serbian forces and repelling them from Herzegovina, and the largest cities with a majority Croatian or mixed Croatian-Muslim population in Bosnia were defended. Around 2,000 Croats were killed in the battles with the Serbs. Herzegovina was the only place in the remains of the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina where the factories were still operating, where taxes were being paid and where municipal services were still functioning. In such a situation a large number of Muslims then moved under Croatian command. The Croats had defended vital communication links as far as central Bosnia, through which more than a half million people fled, and which moved supplies in the opposite direction. Six months later these communications, reaching to Vitez, would be assumed by the British UN battalion. On the opposite side, Chetnik paramilitary units from Serbia, attacking across the border, quickly gained possession of vast territories inside Bosnia. In their operations, and with the help of the Yugoslav army, more than 100,000 unarmed Muslims were killed, with an equal number locked in concentration camps. From the first wave, Croatia received about 700,000 refugees, mostly Muslims, while around 150,000 of them are in free Herzegovina.

While the Muslims fled from Bosnia en masse, Croats who were born in Herzegovina hurried down to defend their territory. A large number of these from Herzegovina (around 100 of whom were killed in the battle for Vukovar), fought in the Croatian army from the first days of the war. Now they returned home as veterans.

In an agreement between the Croatian and Bosnian governments, Croatian police caught able-bodied Bosnians living in Croatia and forcibly deported them back to Bosnia, many of whom were armed by Croatia. There were incidents in which the Croatian police arrested Muslim men who had already been deported, who had then sold their Kalashnikovs to Croats, and used the money to try to escape to the West.

Due to the fact that they had already been hit once by the

Serbs themselves, the Croats prevented the occupation of all of Bosnia-Herzegovina, holding it together as a state. Later, in the peace negotiations which generally confirmed the existing state, the Bosnian government on the one hand sought American protection against the Serbs, so that they could concentrate on wresting central Bosnia from the Croats and penetrate across Herzegovina to the sea. While the Croats were holding their positions facing the Serbs, Muslim units behind them were being rested, trained and equipped. Then in a surprise attack, the Muslims conquered a part of central Bosnia, but set their sights on Mostar (which had an equal number of Croats and Muslims and small number of Serbs before the war, but with the flood of refugees from central Bosnia, the number of Muslims almost doubled). Muslim forces took a part of the city, but were saved from the Croatian counter-attack by Spanish UN forces.

Because of the Croatian population's relative majority in central Bosnia, the Vance-Owen plan had assigned the area to the Croats. But the area is of strategic importance to both Croats and Muslims: one of the largest factories producing heavy weapons is in Novi Travnik, there is an explosives factory in Vitez, Travnik contains the largest weapon repair facility, and in Busovaca there is a factory producing light infantry weapons.

Around 6,000 Croats have been killed in battles against Muslim forces in late (November 1993), with about another 80,000 driven from their homes. In larger areas encircled by Muslims there are still about 160,000 Croats plus an additional 75,000 refugees from the surrounding areas. For that reason the Croatian government has responded in the same measures, driving the Muslims from their land, and holding the Muslims in an encirclement in their attempt to retake the eastern part of Mostar.

As things stand, as this was written, fierce battles in central Bosnia are anticipated, especially after the arrival of large numbers of Mujahadin fighters from Libya, Iran, Syria, and Afghanistan, which have been joined into fanatical Muslim units. Recently a Muslim commando unit was destroyed near Enjibica, which was made up of Muslims from black Africa!

Croatian from Herzegovina in battle against the Serbs in the vicinity of Mostar. He is wearing a silk ribbon on his head, used to stop bleeding and bind up wounds if hit by a bullet. Summer 1992.



Croatians captured 112 American 203mm howitzers from a base in Zagreb. The Serbs had destroyed the sighting mechanisms and removed the breeches. But by chance locating one breech, which was used to produce others, within a month the howitzers were back on the front lines. A computer centre from Zagreb used an estimate to develop a firing chart.

Continued from page 26

lowed. And instead of informed analyses of what was taking place and why, news services repeated stories about Croatian World War II wartime atrocities as proof that the Serb population needed the army's protection against renewed genocide. Eventually even some of the staunchest sceptics began to sympathise with the Croatian view (especially after Serbian war aims in Bosnia and Herzegovina emerged); this was but the latest round in an age old pursuit of Serbia's historical aim — a Greater Serbia becoming the dominant power of the Balkans. To this end, both Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina would need to be either eliminated or reduced to weak dependents.

Under Serbian (and UNPROFOR) occupation

Before the United Nations stepped in to broker a peace agreement, one third of Croatian territory lay under military occupation by the rebel Serb forces. In the east a massive army effort had totally obliterated the city of Vukovar (44% Croatian, 37% Serbian), and driven over 40,000 Croats and Hungarians out of their country. In the central areas, cities which were evenly divided between Serb and Croat, such as Petrinja and Pakrac, were captured and the Croatian population driven out. In the south, occupied territory cut directly across the heart of Croatia, cutting essential transportation links between Dalmatia and continental Croatia, and effectively depriving the country of its rich income from tourism.

Croatia consented to United Nations patrolling of the occupied territories at a time when it was desperately standing up against a far stronger foe, and its civilian population being pounded mercilessly. The terms of the agreement proved extremely disappointing for Croatia. The UN force's mandate guaranteed that Serbs in



Croatia would be protected, but it did not take into consideration the plight of Croats living on Serbian-occupied land. So Croats were shocked to see their fellow countrymen 'ethnically cleansed' from the Croatian territories by Serb occupation forces, while UN personnel simply looked on. And although UN resolutions specified that the occupied lands were to be reincorporated into Croatia's territory, there was no provision for this to ever be enforced.

Today...

Now the war focus has moved on to Bosnia-Herzegovina, where all pretence has been removed as to what the Serbian aim's really are. With their experience in Croatia behind them, Croats in Herzegovina moved quickly into action and fought fiercely and capably against the Serb war machine, effectively gaining and holding on to the Croatian part of the county, which they have now termed Herz-Bosnia. Serbian army forces easily overran much of central and eastern Bosnia against an unprepared Bosnia-Herzegovina army, which backpedalled, waiting in vain for military help from the West, while its native Muslim and Croatian populations were sys-

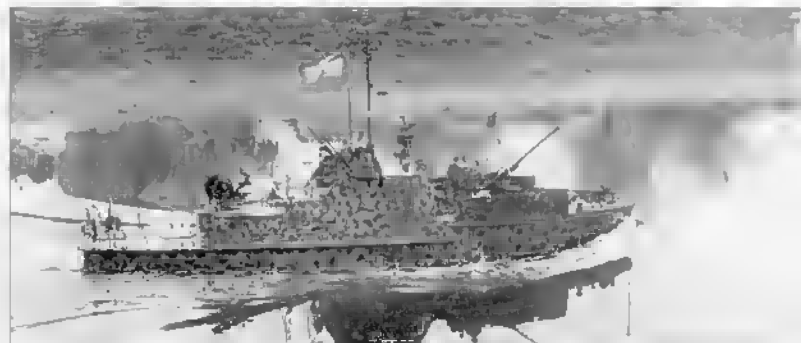
tematically forced to flee. The resettling of peoples, and tensions between them, led to skirmishes over territory and cities as havens for their respective displaced populations and post-war positioning. Very soon Bosnia was the site of a three-way war, with units of Croats, Muslims and Serbs engaging in bloody battles in one area and forming confusing alliances elsewhere. Now while frustrating negotiations drag on between all parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina, few expect any true peace there for years. Rather, a blood-spattered plan for a Greater Serbia continues to be implemented there at a catastrophic cost.

In Croatia itself, well-armed Serbian rebel forces continue to demand complete independence (or union with Serbia) for their occupied territory, which cuts through the very heart of Croatia. So far, Croatia's pledges of protection of minority rights, along with internationally monitored guarantees, have not been believed but were repeatedly rejected as inadequate. Consequently, there seems to be little interest in serious negotiation aimed at normalising the occupied areas of Croatia among the rebels'

leadership. Instead, almost daily mortar attacks on Croatian forces and the civilian population, along with frenetic attempts to destroy communication and power links under their control, have come to characterise the occupiers' military presence there.

Although Croatia is now independent and internationally recognised, at this point nothing is settled with regard to its Serbian-occupied territory. Recently the UN sided with Croatian claims to secure sovereignty over this territory, and has embraced a plan to bring that about, without clearly spelling out its implementation. But sceptical Croats can be excused for their suspicious wait-and-see attitude. Croatia's government, for its part, has made clear it cannot and will not tolerate a Cyprus-like permanent division of its land under a UN patrol. This would mean disaster for the Croatian economy and the hopes of ever rebuilding the hurting nation. At this point neither side seems at all ready to budge on the terms demanded by the other. But until some attitudes change and more flexibility is shown, the threat of renewed war continues to loom. **[M]**

A river patrol ship transformed into a warship on the Kupa river near Karlovac. Armed with 40 mm and 20mm anti-aircraft guns, and a machine-gun. Serbian pilots often would use the rivers for navigation and fly low over them. This ship once shot down a MiG 21.



Loftie's British Officers' Uniforms 1795-1814

RENE CHARTRAND

(38th) 'XXXVIIIth Regiment of Foot, Light Company 1801' — Black shako with green plume, silver cords around top, silver star and hugh badges in front. Scarlet coat, single-breasted, yellow collar edged and laced silver, yellow indented cuffs edged silver, silver buttons and buttonholes on chest, white turnbacks. Gold gorget. Crimson sash. White breeches. Black boots. White shoulder sword-belt with silver oval belt-plate. Gilt-hilted sword, black and gilt scabbard.

(40th) 'XLth or 2nd Somersetshire Regiment of Foot 1801 Officer: Grenadier Company' — Black bicorn, white over red plume, gold and crimson tassels. Scarlet coat with buff facings, gold buttons, no lace, white turnbacks. Crimson sash. Buff breeches. Black gaiters and shoes. White shoulder sword-belt with gold oval belt-plate. Gilt-hilted sword, black and gilt scabbard.

'41st Regiment of Foot, formerly invalids 1802. Made a duty Regiment in 1787' — Black bicorn, white over red plume, gold and crimson tassels. Scarlet coat with scarlet facings, silver buttons, silver lace with a black central line set bastion shaped, white turnbacks. Gold gorget. Crimson sash. White breeches. Black boots. White shoulder sword-belt with silver oval belt-plate. Gilt-hilted sword, black and gilt scabbard.

'43rd or Monmouthshire Regiment of Foot 1802' — Black bicorn, white over red plume, gold and crimson tassels. Scarlet coat with white cuffs and lapels, scarlet collar with white collar tabs, silver buttons, no lace, white turnbacks. Gold gorget. Crimson sash. Blue breeches. Black boots and tassels. White shoulder sword-belt with silver oval belt-plate. Gilt-hilted sword, scabbard not visible.

'46th or Devonshire Regiment of Foot 1802' — Black bicorn, white over red plume, gold and crimson tassels. Scarlet coat with yellow cuffs and lapels, scarlet collar with yellow collar tabs, silver buttons, no lace, white turnbacks. Gold gorget. Crimson sash. White breeches. Black gaiters and shoes. White shoulder sword-belt with gold oval belt-plate. Gilt-hilted sword, black and gilt scabbard.

'48th or Northamptonshire

OVER THE LAST two issues we have examined the career of Major William Loftie and examined some of the uniform discrepancies he recorded and which were later repainted by Cecil C.P. Lawson for Mrs Anne S.K. Brown. Here we conclude by examining examples from the 38th to 95th Regiments.

Regiment of Foot 1802' — Black bicorn, white over red plume, gold and crimson tassels. Scarlet coat faced buff, gold lace edging lapels, collar and cuffs, gold buttons, gold lace buttonholes at lapels only, buff turnbacks edged gold. Gold gorget. Crimson sash. Buff breeches. Black gaiters and shoes. White shoulder sword-belt with gold oval belt-plate. Gilt-hilted sword, black and gilt scabbard.

'49th or Hertfordshire Regiment of Foot Field Officer 1802' — Black bicorn, white over red plume, gold and crimson tassels. Scarlet coat faced green, green piping edging lapels, gold embroidery at buttonholes instead of lace, gold buttons, white turnbacks. Crimson sash. White breeches. Black boots. White waist sword-belt with small gold clasps. Steel-hilted sword, steel scabbard.

'50th or West Kent Regiment of Foot 1802. Gold Meral given by the Grand Signior for their Service in Egypt 1801. Worn by King's Orders 1802' — Black bicorn, white over red plume, gold and crimson tassels. Scarlet coat faced black,

white piping edging lapels, collar and cuffs, gold buttons, no lace, white turnbacks. Gold meral hung on a light orange or yellow ribbon worn on left lapel. Gold gorget. Crimson sash. White breeches. Black gaiters and shoes. White shoulder sword-belt with gold oval belt-plate. Gilt-hilted sword, black and gilt scabbard.

'52nd or Oxfordshire Regiment of Foot 1799' — Black bicorn, white over red plume, gold and crimson tassels. Scarlet coat faced buff, silver buttons, no lace, buff turnbacks. Gold gorget. Crimson sash. Buff breeches. Black gaiters and shoes. White shoulder sword-belt with silver oval belt-plate. Gilt-hilted sword, black and gilt scabbard.

'54th or West Norfolk Regiment of Foot 1801' — Black bicorn, white over red plume, gold and crimson tassels. Scarlet coat faced green, white piping edging lapels, collar and cuffs, silver lace and buttons, white turnbacks. Gold gorget. Crimson sash. White breeches. Black boots. White shoulder sword-belt with silver oval belt-plate. Gilt-hilted sword, black and gilt scabbard.



48th Regiment of Foot, officer, 1802. Watercolour by C.C.P. Lawson after William Loftie.

(55th) 'LVth or Westmoreland Regiment of Foot 1802 Field Officer. The uniforms are worn sometimes without lace' — Black bicorn, white over red plume, gold and crimson tassels. Scarlet coat faced green, gold lace and buttons, white turnbacks. Crimson sash. White breeches. Black gaiters and shoes. Black waist sword-belt with gold clasps. Gilt-hilted sabre, black and gilt scabbard.

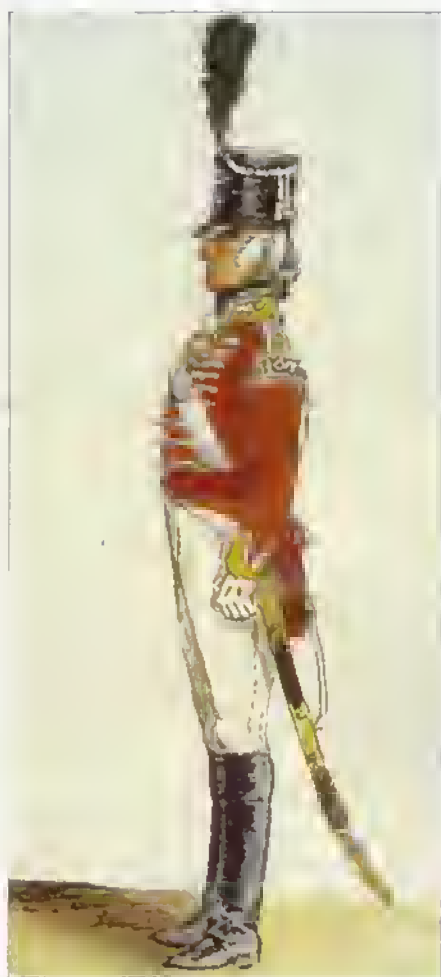
'56th or West Essex Regiment of Foot 1795' — Black bicorn with black plume, no tassels. Scarlet coat faced purple, silver lace and buttons, white turnbacks. Gold gorget. Crimson sash. White breeches. Black gaiters with red top edge, black shoes. White shoulder sword-belt with silver oval belt-plate. Silver-hilted sword. Scabbard not visible.

(58th) 'LVIIIth, or Rutlandshire Regiment, Grenadier Uniform as worn on his return from Egypt Feb 1802' — Black bicorn, white plume, gold retaining cords, no tassels. Scarlet coat faced black, gold lace with scarlet light at centre, gold buttons and lace, white turnbacks. Crimson sash. Dark blue breeches. Black boots and tassels. Ivory gripped Arab sahir in a gilt scabbard hung by a black and gold cord over the shoulder.

(60th) 'LXth or Royal American Regiment 1799' — Black bicorn, white over red plume, gold and crimson tassels. Scarlet coat faced blue, silver lace and buttons, white turnbacks. Gold gorget. Crimson sash. White breeches. Black boots. White shoulder sword-belt with silver oval belt-plate. Sword not visible. Black scabbard with gold fittings.

'95th Regiment, 1803' — Black Taiton helmet with black bearskin crest, black turban with silver chains, black visor edged silver, green plume. Dark green dolman with silver buttons. Crimson sash with cords and tassels. Dark green pantaloons with black braid. Black Hessian boots with green tassel. Black waist sword belt with silver clasp. Steel-hilted sabre with black scabbard with steel fittings.

In ending, I would like to express my thanks to Peter Harrington, Curator of the Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, for his very kind assistance.



Top left:
38th Regiment of Foot, officer
of the Light Company, 1801.
Watercolour by C.C.P.
Lawson after William Lottie.
(All photos Anne S.K. Brown
Military Collection, Brown
University.)



Top centre:
41st Regiment of Foot, officer,
1802. Watercolour by C.C.P.
Lawson after William Lottie.



Top right:
43rd Regiment of Foot, officer,
1802. Watercolour by C.C.P.
Lawson after William Lottie.



Bottom left:
49th Regiment of Foot, field
officer, 1802. Watercolour by
C.C.P. Lawson after William
Lottie.



Bottom right:
58th Regiment of Foot, officer,
Grenadier Company, on
returning from Egypt in
February 1802. Watercolour
by C.C.P. Lawson after
William Lottie.

Kapetan Dragan's Serbian 'Kninja' Fighters

OPERATION 'CHAMELEON' has been underway for a few days now. So far it's been quite successful. The Kninjas have already made their way up to the outskirts of Skabrnje and have taken the strategically important hill 'Razovljeve glavica'. From up there you can see all the way to the sea on a clear day. What we've still got to do is 'cleanse' the house, ie, occupy a town as it's referred to in military jargon. You're still killing each other, but now it's being done within the confined space of rooms.

Zenga's group is the most experienced in these matters, he is to proceed with the 'cleansing', working his way along the main road. Meanwhile the other four groups cover him from the sides. It takes the Serbs one day to 'cleanse' the lower end of the town up to the train. They encounter very little resistance since the Croats have retreated to a different part of town. Someone turns up four prisoners, that's all.

But at a certain point, the aggressors can go no further. The Croats have an ideal van-

RICHARD SCHNEIDER Translation by
KIMI LUM

AS A CONTRAST to our 'Croatian Warrior' series, Austrian journalist Richard Schneider's experiences with the Kninja warriors of Krajina-Serbia are more immediate. As we saw last month, the hatred between the two sides, and the atrocities, make this struggle every bit as abhorrent as the fighting during World War II (see 'MI' 67 & 68).

lage point. They lie waiting not more than a hundred metres away and they have clear shooting range.

It isn't until the fourth day that the Kninjas gain ground. They've had to maintain continuous artillery fire, and sometimes the shells don't fall any farther than 50 metres away. It's living hell.

Four days later what's left of Skabrnje is once again in Serb hands. The operation is over. On the Serb side, the toll is five dead, thirty wounded. Later the Croats concede 63 dead.

HE RETURNS MY call at 3am. 'If you still want to see the

camp', the voice says, 'then be in front of my house in an hour'. Damn straight I do. All of a sudden I'm wide awake.

'Camp' refers to where the 'Kninja' are made — a Serb elite unit employed only in Krajina to fight against the Croats. The voice belongs to their undisputed boss: Kapetan Dragan. The professional soldier, who stands only 1.73 m high, spent many years living in Australia. His successful career in his old homeland didn't begin until 10 March 1991. It was then that in the Krajina capital Knin he began looking for volunteers to fight against the Croats.

Around 300 responded to his call to arms. Legend has it Dragan said, 'Serbs on this side; Chetniks on that side'. He ended up taking the 32 Serbs. He's never had anything to do with Chetniks. The same goes for communists: 'I've no respect for either of them. They've killed more Serbs than all our enemies put together.'

Within six months Dragan had recruited about 750 men and taken over the Krajina with them — not bad considering that's a good one third of the whole Croat territory. 'And that without sacrificing a single civilian life', he adds with pride. According to a government survey, this victory made the 38-year-old, gray-haired leader more popular among his fellow Serbs than Milosevic. Since then he's had to put up with being turned into a comic book superhero, a sort of Serb Batman. Even the Croats can respect his prowess. They offer a reward of 1,000 dollars for the capture of a Kninja; Dragan has a million dollar reward on his head.

The camp is called 'Nastavni Centar Alfa'. It's located near

Cherokee's favourite weapon is the knife, and he is deadly with it.



Benkovac, just 40 km from Zadar, right in the middle of the Croat interior. The Serbs prefer to regard it as the lower tip of the 'Republik of Serb Krajina'. To get there you have to pass through Bicko, Banja Luka and Knin. For nearly half the journey we travel through the corridor which the Serbs forged through Bosnia. Battle rages on all sides. The entire trip is almost 800 km, and takes us over 19 hours.

The Serbs have roadblocks everywhere, but that's not a problem because Kapetan Dragan is more popular than ever in this region. The guards wave us through. At the entrance to the training camp, however, the guard remains official. Kapetan may be his idol, but still he asks to see documents and carries out a careful examination of the vehicle. Exactly as he has been trained to do.

Once inside the camp nobody questions Dragan's authority. When he enters a room, even the officers jump to their feet. If someone neglects to do so, the room grows quiet, and the guilty person turns to Kapetan and asks, 'How many?'. The response he receives is no less laconic: 'You know the answer'. One hundred push-ups.

Since my arrival at the camp I have become a 'Kninja', just like the others, with no exceptions: out of bed at 7 am. Morning exercise. Weapons and equipment training. Drills. Everything in Serb uniform, that goes without saying since civilians aren't allowed on the campground. In return, I can move about the premises freely, even without escort, and can take pictures of whatever I want. That's the deal Dragan and I made.

At first this causes problems for both of us: Kapetan with army command in Knin, which is officially in charge of his unit; I with some of the officers in camp. The main reason is my nationality: a foreign journalist among the Kninjas, you might as well have the Croats in too. It isn't until after Dragan vouches for me personally in front of the Brigadier General, that the protests cease. The distrust, however, continues. Once Dragan arrives just as two Kninjas are discussing whether something unfortunate should happen to the stranger. In any other Serb unit it probably would have been possible to win the confidence of my fellow soldiers through alcohol.



Kapetan Dragan and Kninjas with Croatian prisoners.

According to a widely held Serb opinion, anyone who drinks can't be all bad. Unfortunately, alcohol is strictly forbidden among the Kninjas.

Two weeks go by before things get better. I ask 'Zenga', the commander of my group, if he'll take me with him on the next manoeuvre in the 'small war'. That breaks the ice. Serbs have always been impressed by courage, even if it's driven by stupidity.

The other members of my group are Sale, Saki, Pegi, Schiroki and Vlado. They, like most of the people in the camp, are Serbs from Krajina and aren't much older than 25. In addition there are a lot of people in camp who don't come from this military border of the former Austrian monarchy. Anybody who adheres to Dragan's rules which uphold the Geneva Convention can join the special unit.

There are also about twenty women in camp, and they work at a number of different posts: in the kitchen, the division office, at military hospital, or on the front where they keep the war journals at the various command posts. Mercenaries are the only ones rejected on principle. 'Someone who fights for me for a price', Dragan contends, 'will also betray me for a price'.

There's hardly the danger of that occurring among the

Kninjas. An officer earns around \$20 per month, excluding cigarettes which are free as long as the supply lasts. Soldiers earn about half that much. The men seem to be content with that. Goiko, for example, claims to be happy 'when he watches women and children returning to their villages. That's something worth dying for.' He tells us this while we sit in front of an abandoned house, the sun is setting on the horizon, and all this makes his comment sound even cheesier than it already is.

In his own opinion, however, his opportunities in the future, provided he survives this war, are everything but cheesy: 'actually I have two choices; rehabilitate or join the Foreign Legion'.

Before I go to the front for the first time, Kapetan Dragan gives me a brief overview of our military situation. Operation 'Chameleon' calls for the occupation of a village called 'Skabrinje'. It is just a few kilometres away from Benkovac and since the beginning of the war has been the border to Serb Krajina. Until two months ago the UNPROFOR had their patrols stationed here. The Croats drove the blue helmets as well as the Serbs away. This defeat angered the Serbs who claimed that it wouldn't have happened if they hadn't followed the agreement and placed all their heavy

weapons in the hands of the UN.

Now Dragan's men have once again got hold of their weapons. As a result, the region is being shaken by another bitter battle for position. And although the world media have their attention directed at Bosnia, this battle rages on unnoticed.

Four days of combat in the streets. I am with Zenga and his men when they overrun the basement which the Croats have used as headquarters. We find a gulf mine for a while crew of journalists down there. UNICEF packages which should have been sent via Zagreb to children in Sarajevo; Austrian ammunition produced by Hiltnerberger; brand new anti-tank grenade launchers made in Hungary.

Seven corpses lie in front of the house. Six of them are missing an ear. They have been cut off by members of the so called 'second front', a military reserve. The direct motive: two months ago Croats took the Serb commander of the village prisoner and did the same thing to him while he was still alive. This demonstration angers Dragan. For tactical reasons too. The bodies could have been used as propaganda. To show what a good job the Serb soldiers are doing. Maimed corpses won't serve this purpose.

MM



Above: *Knjujas* training with rifle grenades.

Below: 'Cherokee' and 'Bota' ready for action.





Kapetan Dragan (right) with other Kninja officers.

The scene at the Belgrade hospital could have come straight out of a cheesy war movie. A young man in a wheel chair rolls up to him and says, 'Kapetan, I fought for Serbia and lost both my legs. Now I'm a cripple just like all my buddies here. But is there anything out there whingives a damn?'

The maimed man hands over, embraces the young man and reassures him, 'I do, my friend. I will never forget any of you.'

Kapetan is moved to tears.

This image doesn't fit in with what appears in western media about Kapetan Dragan. He's supposed to be the 'Terminator of the Croats'? The 'Super Terrorist'? That's the man who claims he would fight for the Serb idea even outside Yugoslavia because 'it's often much more effective.'?

But what in fact do we know about him? About this legend who only measures 1.73 m, the 'hero from Knin', as he is admirably referred to by his fellow Serbs? Nothing, absolutely nothing. After all, when it comes to his private life, the man who was once the popular person in Serbia doesn't let

many people get close to him, least of all a foreign journalist.

He doesn't even talk to his closest friends about his past. He claims it's in order to protect his family. So that one day he will be able to lead a normal life again. That's why he adopted the pseudonym 'Kapetan Dragan' and keeps his real name a secret.

His Austrian passport bears the name Daniel Smedden. The name given to him at birth, however, on 12 December 1955 in a tenement building in Belgrade, was Dragan Vasiljkovic.

Dragan was six when his mother emigrated to Australia with him and his brother. He lived there until 1990, leaving only a few times in order to work in South Africa and allegedly in Israel where he earned his living as mercenary and trainer for special units. He has never had training to be anything but a soldier. But he started from the lowest ranks, in Melbourne in Company 'C' of the Royal Victorian Regiment. That's where he learned the same soldier's code of honour in which he adheres to this day.

Honour is his first priority.

And supposedly fairness towards his enemies, which in the midst of this mad war provides an almost pleasant contrast between him and his fellow military leaders. At least Dragan, unlike 'Arkan' Zeljko Raznatovic, the commander of the notorious Serb 'Tiger', is not on the list of war criminals. The two men keep their private contact with one another to a minimum. They've never fought together on the same front, they keep a subtle rivalry going between them and have seen-sawed back and forth several times as the favourite in the eyes of the Serb people.

Two years ago when Dragan took over Krajina, he was the most popular man in Serbia. Milan Babic, the president of the self-named 'Republic of Serb Krajina' would have liked to have taken advantage of his popularity. Dragan, however, had no political ambitions. It wasn't long before Babic removed him from his command and banished him to Belgrade. There he set up the 'Kapetan Dragan Fund', a relief organisation for Serbs disabled in war.

That's when Arkan's big

chance came. As a war hero, with formal training as a commander, he moved into Slavonia and drove Dragan out of the headlines.

These days the tables have turned again. When Croatia started its counter-offensive, local politicians politely turned down Arkan's help within a week and unanimously asked Dragan for his assistance.

Dragan didn't take long to respond. It's not inconceivable that his combat needs stem from a deep-seated Napoleon complex. 'He's need to prove to himself that he's a man manifies itself daily', friends say of this rather small, gray-haired man, who always seems lost in civil dress, and who prefers to make his appearance in uniform and wearing a wine-coloured beret.

In Dragan the roles of 'conqueror of territories' and 'conqueror of women's hearts' are mingled. He was married twice in Australia and he had a long relationship with a German woman in South Africa; each of these women bore him a son.

These days in Belgrade the little macho has almost as many girlfriends as he has enemies...

Rufus Lathrop Baker

FREDERICK C. GAEDE

Paintings by Dr CHARLES H. CURETON

EVERY ARMY HAS its unheralded heroes. For every Wellington, Napoleon or Lee, there were (and continue to be) literally thousands of officers whose efforts made the exploits of those more durable heroes possible. While some achieved immortality themselves on the battlefield, many more were involved in the logistical support of the armies in the field. A few concerned themselves with policy making or other activities even further removed from the battlefield.

IN THE UNITED STATES Army during the first half of the 19th century, few officers equalled the contributions of Lieutenant-Colonel Rufus L. Baker, especially where they involved development of ordnance equipment patterns. During a military career that spanned 41 years (1813 to 1854), Baker proved himself extremely competent in technical matters. He served on several ordnance review boards appointed to investigate innovations to weaponry and equipment. He was sent to Europe in the 1840s to evaluate other nations' ordnance, accoutrements and their methods of manufacture. And he proved to have no peer in the US Army in implementing

new and improved manufacturing techniques at US arsenals.

Rufus L. Baker was born on 6 December 1790, the sixth of nine children of Dr Joseph Baker and his wife, Lucy. Rufus always returned to the town of his birth, Windham, Connecticut, when he was not on an extensive tour for the Army. The family home still stands, and is currently being refurbished by descendants.

Nothing is known of his life prior to his entering the Army during the War of 1812. Even Rufus' motives for joining are unclear. Given his long tenure of service, patriotism was certainly a motivation. A regular paycheck may have been another. In any case, Baker was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and designated an Assistant Deputy Commissary of Ordnance on 12 March 1813. Young Baker must have done a superb job, for at the end of the war he was retained as a First Lieutenant in the Ordnance Department, despite the massive reduction in the Army that took place in 1815. Considering that he was not a graduate of West Point, being

This drawing by George Whodbridge of the 1839 pattern infantry cartridge box illustrates three aspects of accoutrement development involving Rufus Baker: the introduction of the round eagle pattern belt plate (experimentally introduced into the US Army in 1826 on the bayonet belt; switched on the cartridge box shoulder strap after 1841); the creation of the oval US general service plates for waistbelts and cartridge box flaps in 1839; and the promotion of tin inserts for cartridge boxes to hold both loose cartridges and packages. This system remained the standard for the US Infantry until the end of the American Civil War in 1865. (Courtesy CMH-1)



retained was in itself quite an achievement.

He even managed a promotion to Captain on 1 May 1817, a grade he would hold for 21 years in a peacetime army. With the abolition of the Ordnance Department during a general reorganisation of the Army in 1821, Baker was transferred to a line unit, the 3rd Artillery, although he still performed ordnance related functions.

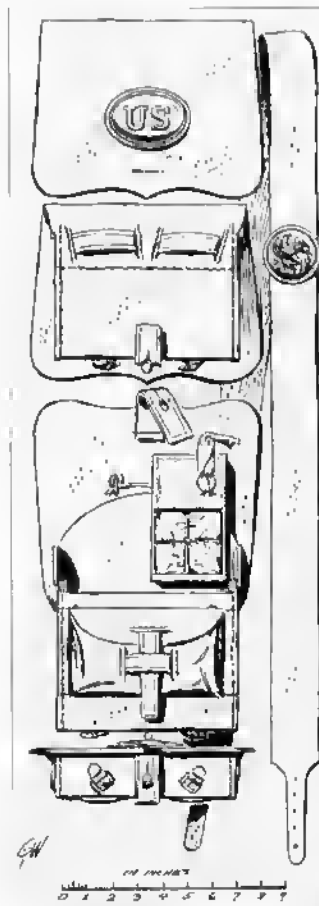
Despite obviously competent work, it was not until another transfer, to the 1st Artillery Regiment in 1823, that he begins to emerge from the archival record as a distinct and forceful personality. Baker was assigned to the Artillery School of Practice (established at Fortress Monroe, Virginia in May 1824), and became familiar with the management of significant quantities of matériel and funds for the fort. He apparently also began his long association with accoutrements, helping to promote the general introduction of the round eagle bayonet belt plate to the Army after 1826.

Opportunities for Baker to get involved with accoutrement design, development and production increased significantly after 1828, when he was placed in charge of the Allegheny Arsenal, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Allegheny had already been a modest arsenal of storage and repair. However, in the ten years he was stationed there, Baker made it the pre-eminent

Robert W. Weir's portrait of Lieutenant-Colonel Rufus L. Baker, circa 1851, prominently indicates Baker's status in the Ordnance Department. Note the crossed cannons on the buttons and richly finished epaulettes. (Courtesy Arts Anna Smith.)

site for the manufacture of leather accoutrements for the US Army. Baker led the way in creating the Army's own accoutrement production capability, citing lower costs and better quality control than had been possible with contracted goods.

By the mid-1830s, Baker completely understood the techniques of accoutrement manufacture and began to suggest innovations as well. Assisted by his master craftsman, Hugh Alexander, Baker worked with the Fenwick (Ordnance Review) Board of 1837 in correcting deficiencies in infantry and dragoon accoutrements that their use in the Second Seminole War had revealed. Although some suggestions, like metal bayonet scabbards and hinges to the flaps of the cartridge boxes, were not adopted, by 1839 many others had been. These included waistbelts for infantrymen, the replacement of an embossed design in the leather cartridge box flap with the familiar brass oval US-marked plate and a supporting shoulder strap for the dragoon belt. Others, such as the dele-





Above: The pouch designed by Baker about 1845 to hold percussion primers for small arms. It is characterised by a brass closure button that protrudes from the front of the pouch body. **Below:** About 1850 the closure button was moved to the bottom of the pouch body. Examples of both are known with and without the US and troled edged on the outer flap. Drawings by George Woodbridge. (Courtesy CHU.)



tion of the bayonet belt and placement of the bayonet scabbard on the waistbelt with an integral frog, would be adopted later.

Significant as part of the above noted changes was a new method of carrying and protecting the paper wrapped cartridges of the era. Baker promoted the issue of cartridges in bundles of ten and their carriage in the cartridge box in a tin insert. The four bundles for the infantry box, for example, would be opened one at a time, as needed, rather than all 26 cartridges being carried in individual holes drilled into a wooden block, as previously done. Thus more cartridges could be carried in less space with greater protection. This system, formally adopted in the Pattern of 1839 accoutrements, remained standard in the US Army until the paper wrapped cartridge era ended at the close of the American Civil War in 1865.

Typical of the praise he received for his insights and work are two letters from Colonel George Bomford, Chief of Ordnance, noting (1831) '... the report... is a source of much gratification; it is full of valuable information to this department, and will be preserved on the records of the

office, as a Standard for future reference; being the most accurate and satisfactory yet received. I have to thank you for the pains you have taken in the matter.' And again (1837) '... this Department takes great pleasure in expressing to you its gratification at the very able manner in which you have conducted the manufacture of accoutrements, providing alike a great saving to the Government, and highly creditable to you...'.

With such performance evaluations it is not surprising that on 6 July 1838 Baker received his (long overdue) promotion to major. He also received a corresponding increase in responsibility, to command of the Watervliet Arsenal in New York State. Watervliet was primarily a cannon foundry (a role it continues to this day), and introduced Baker to new technological worlds such as metallurgy. Although water was the primary power source at this time, Baker had to innovate once again when a two-year draining of the Erie Canal to deepen its bed removed his source of water. Thus, in 1839, a modest eight horsepower steam engine was introduced to the arsenal as an alternate source of power.

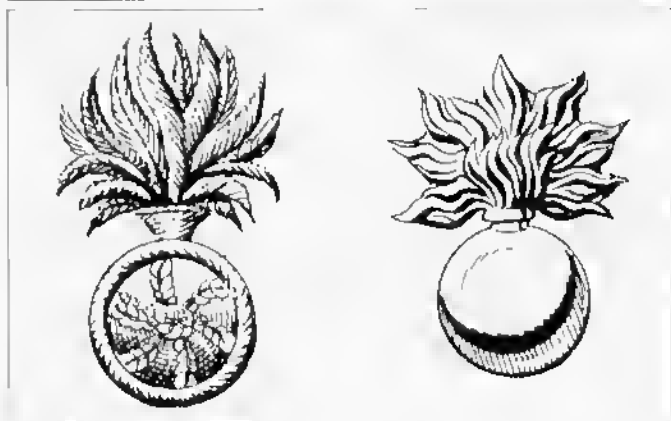
Acknowledging his dedication, technological skills and powers of observation, Baker

led a four member board of officers on an extensive tour of Europe in 1841. The team was to ascertain details on the casting processes for both brass and particularly iron cannon, collect specimens of cannon and other ordnance items and determine the extent to which percussion locks had been applied to arms. Perhaps prophetically, they were also to look at '...percussion primers, and the means for carrying the primers'. In 1845, still fascinated by leather accoutrements despite having moved to heavier ordnance, Baker designed the first practical percussion cap pouch for the US Army, a design little modified until the end of the percussion ignition era.

A year after the board was appointed, their 111-page report was printed as a US Senate document, while tons of

This image of the main entrance to Allegheny Arsenal was taken during the American Civil War, when it was a major arsenal of construction for small arms ammunition and accoutrements, and of storage for artillery. Construction began in 1814, and it was an active military post until 1906. The row of large round objects in the foreground have not yet been identified. (Courtesy Paul Bradluck.)



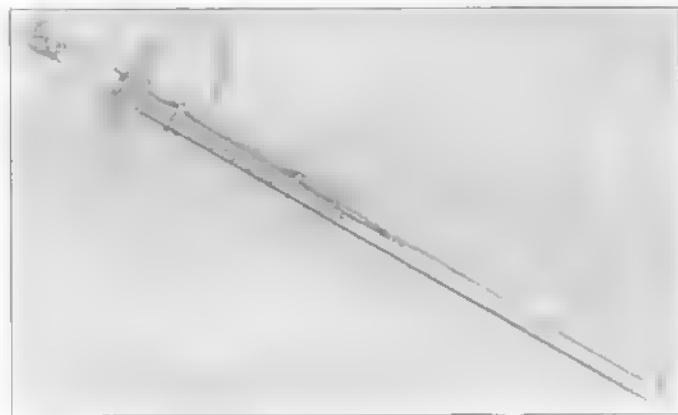


The 'flaming bomb' used by the Ordnance Department had been adopted from the French military. The example at left is embroidered for officers; the one at right of stamped brass is for enlisted personnel of the department. (Courtesy CML)

Ordnance purchased from all the major foundries of Europe continued to arrive for analysis. Baker's first-rate handling of this assignment, in no small measure aided by two officers who would make their own marks in the US military establishment, Captains Mordecai and Huger, put him in the front ranks of the Ordnance Department.

It was a department he would never command as Chief of Ordnance. Having received brevet promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1848 for meritorious conduct in the performance of his duties in prosecuting the war with Mexico (that is, effectively managing Watervliet Arsenal during the Mexican War), Baker was promoted in full

This non-regulation sword, the same one Baker selected for inclusion in Weir's portrait, was given to Baker in 1838, upon his transfer from command of the Allegheny Arsenal, by the Duquesne Grays militia company. (Courtesy Mrs Anna Smith.)



Lieutenant-Colonel on 10 July 1851. Shortly thereafter, he was relieved from command of Watervliet and directed to command the new Benicia Arsenal in California. As second in the Ordnance Department hierarchy Baker looked at this posting as an effectual demotion. He felt his rightful job, considering his age and health, should now be to conduct inspection tours of the arsenals. At 61 years of age Baker did not relish galivanting across the continent to an obscure post on the opposite coast from the centre of power, Washington, D.C.

He requested a leave of absence from the new Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, who denied it with the admonishment that '... an order for service on the frontier as a reflection on the professional standing of a soldier is not believed to be well founded or naturally suggested'. The eventual result of this was Baker's resignation, effective 31 December 1854, thus bringing to a close an illustrious military career and denying the Army any further benefit from his extensive experience.

Others were not so willing to throw away his connections and experience. Baker was soon recruited to be president of the famed Sharps Rifle Company. Doubtless the high esteem in which he was still held facilitated the Ordnance Department's ordering 200 surplus Sharps carbines from the

1856 British contract for testing of the Conant gas seal.

Although the exact date of his leaving the Sharps company is unknown, Baker did spend the entire period of the American Civil War in retirement at his home in Connecticut. It was apparently an easy retirement, as the 1860 US Government census estimates he had a personal worth of \$252,000, quite a sum for the times. It also notes the Bakers had three Irish domestics in their employ. Rufus died in Windham, at home, on 5 June 1868, and was buried in the local cemetery. His wife, Elisa, died only five months later.

Only one portrait of Baker is known, by Robert W. Weir. Weir was a genre painter and drawing teacher for 42 years at West Point, whose allegorical 'Peace and War' painting still graces the chapel at the Academy. Weir was an original member of the 'Hudson River School', and achieved a national reputation when his 'Embarkation of the Pilgrims from Delft Haven, in Holland' was installed in the rotunda of the US Capitol in Washington, D.C. He spent his summers in Windham, where he met Baker and painted the likeness reproduced here. The painting is still in the possession of descendants of Weir, whose family was linked to Baker's by marriage later in the 19th century.

In this portrait we see one of the five swords Baker is known to have owned. Currently in the possession of a Baker descendant, it is a non-regulation presentation sword with gold washed hilt and scabbard, which bears the engraved inscription: Presented to Maj. R.L. Baker, U.S.A. by the Infantry Corps of Duquesne Grays Pittsburgh, Sept. 27th 1838.

Baker is known to have also owned an 1832 General and Staff Officers' sword, now in the West Point Museum collections; and an 1840 Mounted Artillery Officers' sabre, ordered from the Prussian firm of Schnitzler & Kirschbaum during the 1841 European tour. Despite the fact that his name was etched on the blade, the present location of that sword is unknown. **MD**

The two figures in Dr Charles H. Cureton's back cover plate represent Baker at the beginning and end of his military career. The standing figure shows him in the 1812 pattern Ordnance Department uniform, reflecting the changes adopted in May 1813 beginning to take effect. For platoon (company grade) officers and their equivalents the single-breasted coat was dark blue with scarlet cuffs and collar. For Ordnance Department officers gold was the decorative colour. Consequently gold lace adorned the collar, with all other buttonholes worked with silk cord. Buttons were gold coloured, and the new 1813-pattern leather cap was adorned with a gold plate. The mountings of his sword a red likewise gold, as is the single epaulette, indicating his status as a junior officer. White small clothes were appropriate for summer. A red sash completes his trappings.

The equestrian figure represents Baker as a Lieutenant-Colonel, attired in the uniform adopted in 1851 (the same uniform depicted in Weir's portrait). He was now a first grade officer, wearing the double-breasted frock coat with evenly spaced gold buttons bearing the Ordnance Department seal. The coat colour remained an austere, youthful indigo blue, joined now by trousers of the same colour. Another symbol of the Ordnance Department, an embroidered flaming bomb (adopted from the French, whose influence was pervasive in the US Army until the end of the American Civil War), can be seen at the front of the uniform cap, and on the gold epaulettes. The embroidered bombs are in place of the usual eagles of his rank. The black leather sword belt and sword are of the patterns adopted in 1851. The scarlet sash remained a badge of rank. The horse equipments are based on Baker's surviving set, which are richly embellished with finely executed Ordnance Department seals. Several of Baker's uniform components also exist with family members, in a textile museum in Connecticut and at the West Point Museum.

The author would like to thank Mr James Hutchins of the Smithsonian Institution; Mr Dean Nelson of the Connecticut State Library; Messrs Michael McAfee and Michael Moss of the West Point Museum; Mr Paul Braddock of Pittsburgh, PA; and Mr Larry Babits of Greenville, NC. In

addition, Mrs Anna Smith, Mr Charles Buntingham, Jr, and Mrs Ruth Ridgeway, all descendants of Rufus Baker, were most considerate in answering my letters and permitting me to visit. The assistance of each was significant to the completion of this article.

THE AUCTION SCENE

IT HAS BEEN fairly quiet on the militia and arms and armour market recently but there has been one very interesting piece of news. The saga of the 'Wild West' weapons started with a record price for the Smith and Wesson revolver used to kill the notorious outlaw Jesse James which was sold by the long established rooms of Wallis and Wallis at Lewes. This bumper price apparently persuaded some vendors to offer other associated firearms including several with Jesse James connections and a Colt revolver that was used to kill Wild Bill Hickock. With high hopes they were offered at the last sale at the same rooms but to some surprise not one reached its reserve price and so failed to sell (see 'MI' 68).

The latest catalogue from Wallis and Wallis reports that the pieces will be offered in a future sale without reserve. This should mean that they will be sold to the highest bidder irrespective of the size of the bid and it will be very, very interesting to see what they fetch. In theory they could sell for a few pounds if everybody holds back in their bids but this, of course, is an extremely unlikely scenario. All interested parties will know what price the guns reached when they were last offered and they will presumably adjust their bidding accordingly.

There was some excitement in

connection with the last Islamic sale at Sotheby's. Some of the most desirable items in this market are pieces of early Turkish armour dating from the 16th century. The catalogue included a number of such pieces including a helmet and several chantrons (pieces of armour that protect the front of a horse's head). The items were catalogued as being genuine pieces of the 16th century but it would seem that there were some problems for the lots of withdrawn from the sale. Opinions was divided and at least one expert had no doubts as to their authenticity whilst another was equally sure that they were not what they seemed. It is unlikely that the market will ever know the outcome but it is a good example of the problems facing auction rooms, dealers and collectors — can one ever be absolutely sure that any piece is genuine? In the end, after much discussion, examinations and dispute, the final decision will very often be a matter of opinion. More often than not it is impossible to demonstrate, without a shadow of doubt, that an item is what it purports to be. This is especially so when the item is rare and unusual for there are seldom any similar items to which it can be compared. One can only seek advice and accept the consensus.

There are contemporary testing techniques of a high-tech nature that can help but even these are seldom conclusive. The results may indicate an answer but often knowledge is insufficient to supply a positive and unchallenged conclusion. These tests can be useful in analysing metal content and the results can sometimes show that a type of steel was produced by a technique that was unknown at the alleged date of the object.

However, with some metals the proportions and composition of their components are so variable that it is difficult to state categorically that the object dates from a certain period. What is required is a corpus of knowledge of the composition of known genuine objects that can be used as a yardstick. However, as knowledge increases so does the skill of the 'restorer' and if a certain type of metal suggests a certain date then it is not beyond the skill of the forger and metalsmith to produce metal of similar quality and composition. New techniques have unquestionably made the task of the expert and collector far more difficult. As prices rise so it becomes more worthwhile for the forger to make every effort to get details right.

In the past Germany has been the home of at least two of the best 'creators' in the arms and armour field. Anton Konrad produced some extremely fine 'Dresden' swords. The standard of workmanship was high although one weakness was in the size of the hilt that was frequently just a little too large but this feature is certainly not enough to ascribe a doubtful item to this maker. Ernst Schmidt of Munich produced a range of weapons and armour which was generally of an extremely high standard although one or two objects would not fool many. The English Pratt brothers of the mid-19th century produced a number of helmets which today would have been suspect by all but at their period the pieces, together with fictitious provenances, sold well and may still be seen in various country houses.

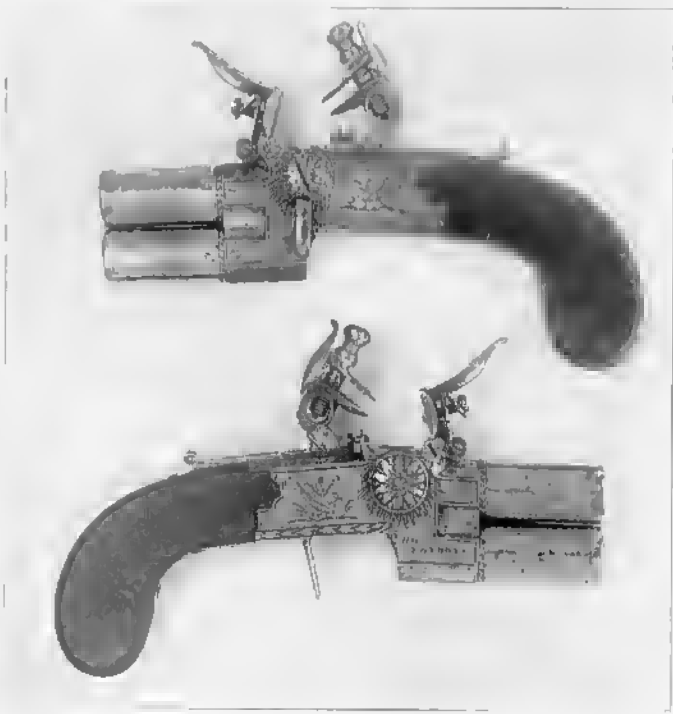
Today Germany has been replaced to a greater degree by India. Skilled craftsmen are there producing a wide range of helmets, swords, bayonets and similar items in quantity. It is also known that they are taking genuine swords and adding inscriptions. Most of their products are quite good and might well fool the beginner but other pieces are fairly obviously of modern construction. However, no country has a monopoly on the production of fakes and much nearer home there have been several instances of 'recreations'. There have been several 18th century Tardieu cavalry helmets that certainly look genuine but are modern and made from old leather. There is also the example of Third Reich material that was, and still is, reproduced in vast quantities to a high standard so that today even the experts have trouble in deciding which is genuine and which is fake.

There was no doubt of the quality of antique firearms offered by Christies when they sold the Wilfrid Ward collection on 27 October. All were of top quality with one or two really outstanding lots. A superb repeating flintlock gun by John Cookson dating from about 1685



An interesting collection of early flying gear. The coat, boots, and mask are of leather and date from the Royal Flying Corps period and were essential when flying in open cockpits. Together with some other similar period the lot is estimated at £1000-£1500.

An attractive pair of over-and-under, top-action flintlock pocket pistols by the famous London gunmaker Durs Egg and estimated at £1200-£1500. Egg weapons are of top quality and appeal to collectors and consequently normally realise high prices.



sold for £47,700 and a marvellous pair of silver mounted flintlock duelling pistols by John Manton made an extremely handsome £32,200 — twice the low estimate. The cheapest lot was a hall stocked percussion shotgun that sold at £172, but rather surprisingly a pair of breech-loading flintlock pistols by Jover did not sell.

The other section of the sale also offered lots of top quality and included around twenty Colt percussion revolvers, most of which made four figures including one very rare presentation Model 1862 Police revolver in a case made to resemble a well-bound book that sold for £26,400. An armour in the style of the 16th century made by Ernst Schmidt of Munich mentioned above sold for £9,200 — a tribute to this 19th century creator.

The Sotheby Billingshurst sale to be held at the end of November offered a very wide range of lots including several 'planes' among which was a two-seater Spitfire — a Christmas present for the man who has everything?

Frederick Wilkinson

MAIN ARTICLES IN AVAILABLE BACK NUMBERS:

M/3: British Officers, Peninsular War (2) — Argentine Commandos, Falklands 1982 — British Infantry, Omdurman, 1898 — Uniforming 'Revolution' — Marcel Bigeard, Indo-China, 1953-54
M/5: U-Boat Uniforms (2) — Jagger's Great War Sculptures — Sayeret Golani, 1982 — Chota Sahib Military Miniatures — Bull Run Re-enactment — Pharaoh Thothmes III, 1482 BC. **M/6:** British Light Division, Alma, 1854 — 14th Century Wargames Analysed — British Mercenaries, Ballic, 16th/17th Cents. (1) — Interpreting Napoleonic Prints — Tigerstripe Camouflage, Vietnam (1) — Richard Gale, 1918 & 1945. **M/7:** 15th Cent. Livery & Badges — U-Boat Uniforms (2) — Tigerstripe Camouflage, Vietnam (2) — British Grenades & Tactics, 1914-18 — British Officers, Boer War — Charles Lasalle, 1806. **M/8:** 15th Cent. Footsoldiers' Clothing — South African 'Buffalo Bn.' — Free Polish Tank Crews, WWII — Lady Butler's Battle Paintings — Unpublished British Hussar Uniform, 1813 — Evelyn Wood VC, 1855 & 1879. **M/9:** Angus McBride Interview — Vietnam Special Forces Camp (1) — Waterloo Officers' Coat in Colour Photos — RJA Commandos 1980-83 — King George's Indians, 1775-83 — James Wolfe, 1746 & 1759. **M/10:** American Revolution Re-enactors — Commando Badges 1940-45 (1) — 17th Lancers, Zulu War — Vietnam Special Forces Camp (2) — Russia 1812 Films — Birth of the Black Watch, 1740s — Marquis el Montrose, 1644 & 1650. **M/11:** Commando Badges 1940-45 (2) — 15th Cent. 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Battle Group! German Kampfgruppen Action at World War Two by James Lucas. Arms & Armour; ISBN 1-85409-176-X; 192pp; 32pp mono plates; maps, bibliography & index; £16.99.

James Lucas' work will need no introduction to 'MI' readers. In this latest volume he examines in detail the actions of a number of German Kampfgruppen from 1939 to 1945, from Poland to Germany, also embracing France, Crete, North Africa, Russia and the 1944-45 campaign in the West. The Kampfgruppen — often hastily formed and designed for one operation — demonstrated the flexibility of the Blitzkrieg approach but really came into their own during the long drawn-out retreat from the east. Most campaign histories concentrate on Corps and Divisions, so it is refreshing to see this new approach, based on primary research with many relevant contemporary quotes and illustrations. A damned good read and nicely complementary to Arms & Armour's other titles on armoured, paratroop and mountain forces.

Rommel's Army in Africa by Dal McGuirk. Airline; ISBN 1-85310-442-6; 192pp; 144 colour plates, mono photos and maps throughout; bibliography & index; £19.95.

This is a reissue under a different imprint of the book which first appeared to wide acclaim in 1987. Earlier reviews really said it all: this IS Rommel's army in Africa, from the nitty-gritty of personal experience in the front line to the superb collection of colour plates of uniform and equipment from Mr McGuirk's enormous collection. If you missed it first time round, grab a copy now because it is unlikely to ever be rivalled.

The Guinness History of The British Army by John Pimlott. Guinness Publishing; ISBN 0-85112-711-8; 224pp; mono photos, prints & maps throughout; bibliography & index; £14.99.

The sheer amount of information which Sandhurst historian John Pimlott has managed to compress into this book without losing the essential data is quite remarkable. It describes the origins of the British Army up to 1660, then six further chapters deal chronologically with crucial areas of development and rise right up to the present day. Each section is attractively illustrated and includes 'panels' on individual personalities, battles, weapons and similar topics.

The text clearly relates the Army to its political and social environment, and notes all significant reforms, such as the abolition of purchase, for example. This makes the story a microcosm, almost, of the history of the British Isles, with many contemporary quotes to bring it all to life.

Additionally, the author focuses

in on seven battles to illustrate vividly the changes in the conditions, weapons and tactics over the centuries, from Agincourt to Goose Green. Finally, appendices give a useful chronology and a resumé of the regiments in the British Army as of 1993, with background notes, principal battle honours and nicknames. As a single volume introduction, or as a handy ready reference, this book could scarcely be bettered, especially at such an attractive price (bestselling hardback novels cost more these days!)

The Guinness Book of More Military Blunders by Geoffrey Regan. Guinness Publishing; ISBN 0-85112-778-2; 188pp; mono illu. throughout; index; £12.99.

The Guinness Book of Naval Blunders by Geoffrey Regan; ISBN 0-85112-713-4; 186pp; mono illu. throughout; index; £12.99.

'That will never make a fighter.' So said later Luftwaffe ace Ernst Udet when he first saw a Messerschmitt 109 in 1934. And in 1917, their Lordships of the Admiralty stated categorically that 'The system of several ships sailing together in a convoy is not recommended in any area where submarine attack is a possibility'.

Just two short examples from the huge volume of quotation, anecdote and analysis which John Regan has brought to these two highly entertaining, yet at the same time extremely thought-provoking books. Divided into relatively short 'chapters', they make ideal light reading when you are too tired or not in the mood to tackle anything 'heavy'. Yet at the same time, they point out many serious issues, such as casualties which would not have been so heavy had the commanding officer on one or both sides not made an incredible blunder, usually of overconfidence or underestimation. Most enjoyable.

With Wellington in the Pyrenees by Major-General F.C. Beaton, CB. Tom Donovan Publishing; ISBN 1-871085-16-0; 327pp; mono plates & maps; index; £19.95.

Written by a professional soldier and first published in 1914, this is the first volume in a trilogy covering events from the French defeat at Vitoria which resulted in Marshal Soult replacing Joseph. Soult was a professional soldier too, and significantly delayed Wellington's advance into France.

The book is well written and shows the author's knowledge of the ground over which the campaign was fought; while the photographs, being taken long before Spain became a tourist trap, show the rugged scenery much as it must have been a century before.

although the reproduction quality is appalling.

An interesting book to read alongside Napier's account of the same period.

The Waterloo Campaign by Albert A. Nofi. Greenhill; ISBN 1-85367-167-3; 333pp; mono illu. & maps; orders of battle & index; £18.95.

According to the author's notes on further reading, William Siborne's account is 'indispensable despite some errors'. It might have been better if he had read David Hamilton-Williams' analysis before writing this account, which is basically the story we all know and love, albeit brightened up with a miscellany of 'panels' giving brief biographies of personalities present and details of the weaponry, etc. The data tables will be very useful for wargamers, as will the orders of battle, but otherwise we regret this book is very much 'the same old story'.

A Dorset Soldier edited by Eileen Hathaway. Spellmount; ISBN 1-873376-05-7; 184pp; 8pp mono plates; notes & index; £16.95.

Very few of the common soldiers during the Napoleonic period could either read or write. Nor could Sergeant William Lawrence; but before he died he dictated his memoirs which were first published in 1886. Now they have been republished with a commentary, notes and index to make them available to the modern reader.

Lawrence served with the 40th Foot from 1805 to 1819, serving in north and south America, the Peninsula and at Waterloo. His account would be fascinating historically on its own for these reasons, but additionally the man was a born raconteur, and the images leap to life, whether humorous or horrific. If you enjoy the Richard Sharpe novels, you will certainly enjoy this 'fact is stranger than fiction' narrative.

The World War II Databook by John Ellis. Aurum Press; ISBN 1-85410-254-0; 315pp; maps, biblio; £40.00.

This reviewer hardly knows how to summarise the contents of Mr Ellis's extraordinary book. If you have any professional or hobby interest in the war, you need this book — it's as simple as that. The sheer scope of the task of creating the computer databases upon which it draws makes one marvel. Its more than 300 large pages are crammed with tables, lists, organisation diagrams, orders of battle, maps; its subtitle, 'The Essential Facts and Figures for All the Combatants', really says it all. The main sections are The War in Maps, Command Structures, Orders of Battle, Tables of Organisation and

Equipment, Strengths, Casualties and Losses, War Production, and Hardware. It is clearly organised and cleanly designed. How on earth can the reviewer convey its richness?... Well, a dozen or so facts, picked completely at random, out of the hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of bits of information between these covers:

The specification, numbers, losses of each class of Japanese submarine; fighter aircraft production totals for each year of the war, in all major combatant states; comparison of battle wounds suffered by British troops from mortar, grenade, shell and bomb as opposed to landmine, bullet or chemical causes; orbats of Allied and Axis forces in Fourth Cassino, May 1944; which German divisions arrived on, were destroyed on, departed from the Eastern Front during, and were in place at the end of, every month of the campaign; the organisation, strength and equipment of an Italian North African infantry division in 1940; bomb tonnage dropped by USAAF 15th Air Force in particular months of 1944, names of commanders of Soviet Air Armies on particular fronts at particular dates; Romanian coal production figures for 1943; and so on, ad infinitum.

While the orders of battle will be the most immediately valuable references, there are scores of other types of statistics which will illuminate the campaign history of the war. How the author compiled this mass of information is a mystery; we can only thank him, celebrate his achievement, and buy his book. Highly recommended.

The Somme: The Day-By-Day Account by Chris McCarthy. Arms & Armour; ISBN 1-85409-206-5; mono photos & maps throughout; appendices, bibliography & index; £20.00.

This brilliantly conceived book traces, literally day by day and unit by unit, the course of the Battle of the Somme from July to November 1916. There have, of course, been many books on the same subject, but this has a particular appeal, being heavily illustrated with large, well-reproduced photographs and maps. An additional bonus is that when a particular corps, division or brigade is mentioned, its insignia is shown in the form of a clear line drawing. Each day's entry begins with the weather and temperature, followed by a corps/division/brigade synopsis of the day's objectives, movements and achievements. The names of individual regiments are included, together with casualty figures where (presumably) available.

Useful appendices give Empire and German orbats and a list of Victoria Cross awards. The index deserves comment on its own, being one of the best we have seen, and the highly detailed maps are a joy.